

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

EVANESCENCE, BUSH, LAMB OF GOD AND MYAGI

FEBRUARY'S STACKED WITH SOME
OF THE BEST CONCERTS IN 2012

GROOVE

KOREA
February 2012/Issue 64

REPATRIATE ME:
WHAT I'LL MISS MOST ABOUT SEOUL

- THE WINTER CURRY QUEST -

MONTE CRISTO
THE SAVIOR OF SANDWICHES

GUERRILLA MEDIA

THE MOST DANGEROUS FOREIGNERS IN KOREA

THE 3 WISE MONKEYS
LOVE IT OR HATE IT, MOST PEOPLE READ IT



THE SEOUL METRO PROJECT PAGE 38

DOZENS OF PHOTOGRAPHERS, OVER 400 SUBWAY STATIONS, 2 YEARS, 1 GREAT BOOK

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY: WE CAN HELP YOU FIND SOMETHING TO DO EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK

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From the editor



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Competition = better media

Groove Korea's cover story this month takes a look at The Three Wise Monkeys – an online magazine that represents the growing dynamism and increasing competition amongst English-language media outlets in Korea.

For any long-term expat in Korea it's pretty clear that English-language media is far better than it used to be. The progress boils down to competition. More choice for readers forces magazines and newspapers to improve. Most importantly, more expat communities are represented in the media than ever, diversifying the range of stories and topics in the news.

After years of stagnation, the three English dailies have been forced to improve. Their websites no longer look like they were designed in 1998. (Now they look like they're from 2005.) Their content is better and there are fewer anti-foreign English teacher headlines than in the past. (Although, oddly, anti-foreign investor coverage is as strong as ever.)

With the exception of the Korea JoongAng Daily, these aren't newspapers that have been produced for foreigners living in Korea. Recently, though, the Herald and the Times have taken steps to compete for foreign readers. The Herald has maintained a section for expats – that is produced by its foreign editors – for about five years. After the Times was forced to publicly defend itself on accusations that its coverage was racist two years ago, it has presented somewhat more balanced stories. This is the same newspaper that libeled Groove Korea's then-managing editor, an offence for which the Korean Press Arbitration Commission ordered a correction.

The numbers tell the story. The Korea Herald is the leader when it comes to the daily English-language newspaper market. With an average daily circulation of 35,000 from July 2009 to December 2009, the latest period for which data is available, its print run was 13,000 more than the No. 2-ranked Korea Times. But in a country with at least 75,000 resident native English speakers, plus hundreds of thousands of English-speaking Koreans, those are pretty unimpressive numbers. It's also important to note that the vast majority of the two newspapers' readerships are native-speaking Koreans, which explains why little of their coverage is designed for foreign-reader consumption.

The English-language magazines on the other hand are exclusively targeted at foreigners, and that's pretty clear when you glance at their content and ads. Over the past five years there has been a massive improvement in the publications' quality and an expansion of scope. Again, we can thank competition. Success and survival boil down to quality and choice for the reader.

3WM is a different beast altogether. It is an accredited media organization, the only sanctioned online English-language media organization in Korea. It has broken stories that have been picked up by the English-language newspapers, magazines and vernacular media. The content is original, edgy and outside the mainstream. There has been flawed reporting, yes, but that can and has happened to all English-media outlets, all of which are thinly staffed and function on tight budgets.

Whether you agree or disagree with 3WM's pieces – and we, for the record, would strongly disagree with its recent article about Craftworks and an April 6 piece on the arts scene in Korea – 3WM has filled a void that has long been empty.

The gloves are off. The war is on. And we will all be better for it.



Matthew Lamers
Editor-in-chief
matlamers@groovekorea.com

HOT ON: GROOVEKOREA.COM

Arts: The Expat Apartment Project

The Expat Apartment Project began in 2010 by friend and fellow photographer, Anthony Dell'Ario, and Elizabeth Groesch. This second two-person photo exhibition, this one held at The Laughing Tree Lab in central Seoul in August of 2011. "We captured a diverse range of foreign residents, hailing from several continents and distinct cultures, each in their own most intimate environment; their apartment," said Groesch. We explored and documented how foreigners, often arriving with (at most) two checked pieces of luggage, not only try to align the traditional Korean-style living space into a home, but also what activities they engage in and find comfort with in the confines of their personal space.

Story by Elizabeth Groesch

Read the story online in February or in print in March.

Community: A toast to the Toastmasters

For one woman new to Korea, what merely began as a desire to spend her free time with friends, eventually turned into a pernicious drinking habit. Eventually, however, she sought out a more positive outlet for her time. Having heard about Toastmasters while in California, she decided to attend the Seocho Leaders Toastmasters club in Seoul. It changed her life. Toastmasters is an international nonprofit organization, which aims to help members improve their public speaking, communication, and leadership skills. In Korea there are about 35 clubs, all designed to help women and men of various ages to learn the art of public speaking.

Story by Rajnesh Sharma

Read the story online in February or in print in March.

Music: Folking Kim Il-du

The enigmatic but no-nonsense folk singer Kim Il-du has been around the Busan music scene for years. Currently guitarist and lead singer of Genius, Kim is also an adept solo performer. His songs are set in a world of simple joys and flawed people, trying to laugh their way through tragedy. When asked during a radio interview what his song, "Watching TV" was about, he replied, "Watching TV." "I want to be simple and normal," he explained when asked about his music. It seems he plays for the love of playing.

Story by Christina Murphy

Read the story online in February or in print in March.

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School violence, suicide, murder, North Korea

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Korea Beat looks at the growing outrage of violence and bullying in Korea's schools, a Canadian that confessed to a murder he got away with, and an "il-advised" currency reform in North Korea.

Opening a foreign currency account

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'Be white'

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www.bigrockbeer.co.kr



What I'll miss most about Seoul

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After living in Korea since 1997, Sean Smith embarked on his toughest journey yet: He and his family repatriated to Canada in 2011.

Interview: Lamb of God

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Interview: Myagi

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Interview: Evanescence & Bush

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Groove Korea interviews Evanescence and Bush ahead of what's set to be one of the biggest concerts of the year.

Profile: Expat artist jimmySK

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A group of Seoul Photo Club photographers set out to capture every station on the enormous Seoul transit system - over 400 stations in all.

Book Review: The Park Chung Hee Era

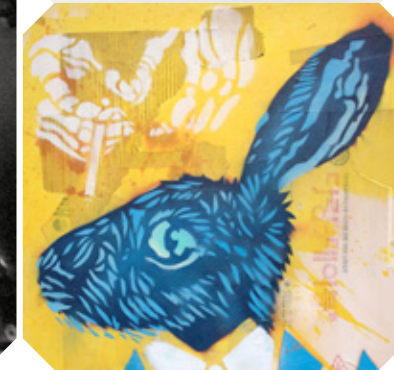
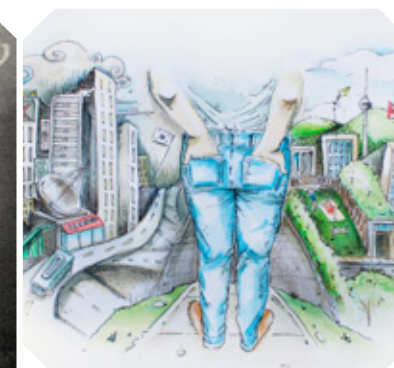
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Guerrilla Media: The Three Wise Monkeys

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The online magazine shakes up what it calls the "stale" English media market in Korea. And it's growing readership suggests it's on to something.



Poker at Walker Hill Casino

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Yoon's Oriental Medical Clinic

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SEOUL

GANGNAM

BIGROCK 02-539-6650

ITAEWON

BABY GUINNESS 02-792-2777

DILLINGER'S 02-793-7232

ROCKY MOUNTAIN TAVERN 02-790-8891

WOLF HOUND 02-749-7971

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SINCHON

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DOGOK

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The design team behind February's Groove Korea

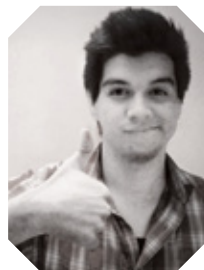
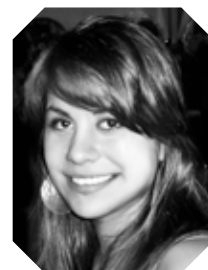


Dylan Goldby - Photography

Dylan is a passionate photographer who loves to speak in the third person. He has been on the peninsula for over six years now. He is a freelancer and teacher of photography. Dylan has been delighting us with his unique talent, delivering great photography; this month's cover photo was shot by him.

Adela Ordoñez - Illustrator

A freelance Illustrator from Honduras, Central America, Adela is currently studying Advertising Design in Costa Rica. She loves illustration, travel, and music. Her adventures all international globetrotting have rubbed off on her work; she has a natural talent for design and illustration and Groove Korea is honored to have her on board.



Diego Choque - Photography

Diego will soon graduate with a masters degree in Broadcasting, Film & TV Production at Universidad Veritas (Costa Rica). Diego spends his spare time working on films and photography as director, assistant and editor. He has recently joined the Groove Korea design team as photo editor.

Daniela Vargas - Illustrator

Daniela was born and raised in beautiful Costa Rica. She is 21 years old and will soon complete her degree in Advertising Design. She comes from a Christian family background, loves music and everything about art. She is passionate about hand-drawn illustrations and believes the world would be a better place if more people followed their own imaginations.



Daniel Sanchez - Art Director

Last time he went to the doctor, he was asked: "Do you smoke or drink?" - "No," he said. "Do you do drugs? You said you are from Colombia, you have a lot of that s**t there." Now you know where he is from. Daniel is our Art Director and has been a freelance Graphic Designer for the past five years or so. He loves singing, eating stake and listening to jazz music.



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Issue Date: February 1, 2012
Registration Date: January 25, 2008
Registration No.: Seoul Ra 11806

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Groove Korea Magazine 2012

MUST READS

Look for the Bookmark Sign.

These are
your stories,
Groove strives
to bring the
community
around you to
the palms of
your hands.

The Seoul Metro Project

Page 38 -

The Task: Take one photo at each station in the Seoul subway system. The total length is in excess of 700 kilometers and includes more than 400 stations. It was no small project.



In Concert: Evanescence & Bush

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Two interviews ahead of what will be one of the biggest concerts of the year in Korea.



The Narita Layover

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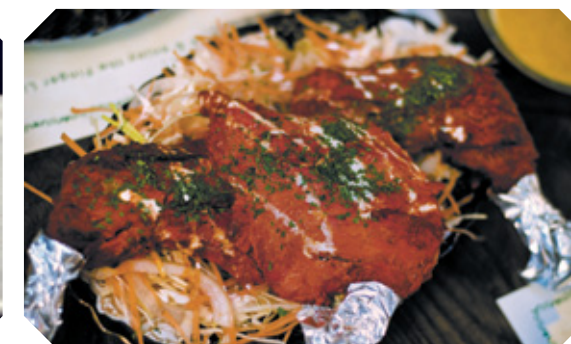
Seek out the Narita Layover. There is a day full of activities just 20 minutes from the airport. This underappreciated city will leave you with good memories and a belly full of unagi.



The Korean Curry Quest

Page 56 -

In Food & Drink, Josh Foreman takes a look at three places to get your Indo-fix: Little India in Itaewon, Everest in Dongdaemun and Yeti in Hongdae.



3 Wise Monkeys online magazine shakes up English media

Page 72 -

With a no-holds-barred approach to publishing, the online magazine 3 Wise Monkeys is looking to tell stories that other English-language media avoid. Their growing readership is testament to their success, but sometimes they get into trouble.



gk Read more on
our website:
groovekorea.
com. Check
us out on
facebook and
twitter for
free stuff.

ON THE COVER

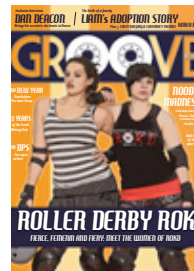
3 Wise Monkeys.
Shaking up English-language media

Read the full story on page 72.



Cover photo by: Dylan Goldby (@ Yahae Studios)
Design by: Daniel Sanchez

On past issues:



January 2012
Roller derby rock. 5 custom ramyeons and a beautiful adoption story.



December 2011
Christmas in the capital. TBS eFM anniversary. Erotic fantasies. Odyssey of students.



November 2011
Han Mini & the gay community in Korea. Odyssey of students.

Check our website for the latest on expat life in Seoul!
www.groovekorea.com



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The INBOX

What's on your mind? Share your thoughts on a Groove article: Did you love it? Did it suck? Are you planning a charity concert and you want to spread the word? Let us know on our facebook page or Twitter and we'll print it here. This is your page to get your message out!

Facebook it; tweet it; e-mail it to submissions@groovekorea.com



Wilfred Lee

Artist • Seoul

"Here is my latest caricature of David Bowie!! For an explanation with video, check out my link! Share if you like it ^^" - Wilfred teaches caricature, art drawing and art theory.

Visit: <http://wilfred-lee.blogspot.com/>

Open Mic at Itaewon

Entertainment • Seoul

Come join us every Thursday at 9 pm for Itaewon's Open Mic at Bar Ireland Yuki! Enjoy the musings of Seoul's best talent, hosted by Yuki's own Fancy! Calling all singers!

Find the group on Facebook and Like it!

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Mike Stewart • Seoul

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ILHouze

DJ • Seoul

This blog is about showcasing house and dance music, whether underground or topping the charts. the goal is to throw out different videos of how the clubbers react to them.

Visit: <http://ilhouze.com/>



Jhonny

Groove follower

I heard about Groove a few weeks back when we discovered the magazine walking around Itaewon and eating a terrible cheeseburger. ha. Regardless, we both really enjoyed the publication.

Jan. 12/2012

Elizabeth

Groove follower.

Have been a reader since 2006. Just wanted to let you know that your crossword puzzle for this month is missing most of it's "Down" section or is it hidden somewhere else in the magazine? Just wanted to give you a heads up. on a minor OOPS.

Jan. 26/2012



Heriberto Garcia

Groove's follower on Twitter

Food & drink section is definitely very useful, but I still can't find a clear path to happiness through Korean food, what about some help?

Dec. 28/2011

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Calendar
UPCOMING
Events

February 1st - February 29th

| REMARKABLE

Feb.

*More details in calendar



15,000 won all-you-can-drink beer @ Beer Garden, Renaissance Hotel

Feb.

*More details in calendar



Free Seoul-Busan and Seoul-Jeonju bus

Feb.
27

*More details in calendar



Wing Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon

Feb.
1. Wednesday

• Food: Bottomless Fries Night with burger @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Wednesdays); (02) 333-1604

• Social: Quiz night @ Craftworks in Nok-sapyeong (Wednesdays)

• Culture: Learn Korean traditional instruments @ National Gugak Center; resister by March 2; [@ Gallery](http://www.gugak.go.kr/eng)

Feb
7. Tuesday

• Food: 2 For 1 fish & chips @ Woldhound (Tuesdays); wolfhoundpub.com

• Business: Forum On Canadian Investment Opportunities @ Grand Hyatt Hotel; www.canchamkorea.org

• Exhibit: Homo-sapiens @ Gallery Golmok, Itaewon; to Feb. 19

Feb
13. Monday

• Fitness: Message Mondays @ Sky Wellness Center in Itaewon

• Exhibit: Mina Cheon's Polipop, Political Pop Art @ Sungkok Art Museum, Jongno-gu; to March 11

• Food: Wing Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Mondays); 400 won/wing; (02) 333-1604

Feb
19. Sunday

• Sport: Canada Ball Hockey Korea rookie camp Feb. 19-25; www.cbhk.org

• Concert: Black Hole, Crash, Black Syndrome, more @ Rolling Hall in Hongdae; 6 p.m. rollinghall.co.kr

• Overeaters Anonymous meeting @ the International Lutheran Church; 7:30 p.m.

Feb
25. Saturday

• Concert: Bye Bye Sea @ V-Hall in Hongdae; 8:30 p.m.

• Food: Ongoing: Fish Market Tour, Vegan Taste Tour, Night Dining Tour; ongofood.com

• Beer: 15,000 won all-you-can-drink beer @ Beer Garden, Renaissance Hotel, Gangnam (every day, 6-9 p.m.); (02) 2222-8630

Feb
2. Thursday

• Beer: Student Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Thursdays); free beer with burger; (02) 333-1604

• Valentines: Table Decorating class @ The Space; 10:15 a.m.; Nonhyun Station (Subway line 9); <http://siwapage.com>

• Family: Discovering Dinosaurs Expo @ Yongsan War Memorial; Through March 4

Feb
8. Wednesday

• Food: Cheese steak sandwich night @ Hollywood Grill in Itaewon; (02) 749-1659

• Beer: 15,000 won all-you-can-drink beer @ Beer Garden, Renaissance Hotel, Gangnam (every day, 6-9 p.m.); (02) 2222-8630

• Exhibit: Magnum Photo Exhibition Companions for the Globe @ Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul Arts Center; to March 4

Feb
14. Tuesday

• Lecture: Diasporic Art and Why it Matters in Korea @ Somerset Palace; 7:30 p.m.; www.raskb.com

• Theatre: Probationary Theatre's Romance by Neil LaBute @ WhiteBox Theatre; www.probationarytheatre.com

• Politics: Asia Society Luncheon with U.S. Ambassador @ Lotte Hotel Seoul; RSVP by Feb. 10 koreacenter@asiasociety.org

Feb
20. Monday

• Beer: 16,000 won beer buffet @ Platinum in Apgujeong; platinumbeer.com

• Travel: Free shuttle bus Seoul-Jeonju every day except Monday; Seoul departure 8 a.m.; Jeonju departure 5 p.m.; visitkorea@chesstours.co.kr

• Exhibit Yann Arthus Bertrand's It's My Home @ Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA)

Feb
26. Sunday

• Sunday Jazz concert @ Once in a Blue Moon in Chungdam-dong; (02) 549-5490

• Social: RAS excursion to Gwangneung & Sanjeong Lake; 8:30 a.m.; www.raskb.com

• AA meeting @ the International Lutheran Church; Sundays; 5 p.m.

Feb
3. Friday

• Theatre: Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf @ White Box Theatre; Feb. 3-12; probationary-theatre.com

• Social: German Carnival Ball @ Millennium Hilton, Seoul; www.1-skv.kr

• Lit: Korean Modern Literature forum @ Seorae Global Village Center; RSVP seo-rae@sba.seoul.kr

Feb
9. Thursday

• Family: Last day of Hello Kitty Castle @ KINTEX Ilsan; kittycastle.co.kr

• Musical: Das Musical Elisabeth opens @ Blue Square Musical Hall ; www.musical-elisabeth.com

• Tour: SIWA's Noryangjin Fish Market Tour with Mildred Berenshot; 10 a.m.; <http://siwapage.com>

Feb
15. Wednesday

• Social: Quiz night @ Craftworks in Nok-sapyeong (Wednesdays)

• Social: SIWA's Coffee Morning @ the Grand Ambassador Hotel; 9:30 a.m.; <http://siwapage.com>

• Exhibit: Lee Sang Won, Park Jihye, Michael Miller's paintings @ Gallery Sun Contemporary (Anguk station, line 3 exit 1); to March 2

Feb
21. Tuesday

• Food: Wing night @ 3 Alley Pub in Itaewon; 3alleypub.com

Exhibit: Maik Wolf's EXTERRITORY II @ Michael Schultz Gallery (Cheongdam station, line 7 exit 9); to March 15

• NANTA open run; nanta.co.kr

Feb
27. Monday

• Music: London Symphony Orchestra @ Seoul Arts Center; Feb. 27-28; 8 p.m.; www.sac.or.kr

• Food: Wing Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Mondays); 400 won/wing; (02) 333-1604

• Exhibit: Maik Wolf's EXTERRITORY II @ Michael Schultz Gallery

Feb
4. Saturday

• Concert: Judas Priest in Olympic Park Gymnasium @ 7 p.m.

• Social: St Andrew's Society Seoul's Burns Supper; RSVP mcintoshinkorea@gmail.com

• Concert: Kim Il Du, Custard @ Sangsang Madang; 5 p.m.; www.sangsangmadang.com

Feb
10. Friday

• Beer: Bucket night @ Beer O'Clock in Sinchon (Fridays); beeroclock.ca

• Concert: Autumn Vacation, J Rabbit, The Finnn @ Rolling Hall in Hongdae; 8 p.m. rollinghall.co.kr

• Tour: Ansan Market tour with Heike Giegerich; 10 a.m.; <http://siwapage.com>

Feb
16. Thursday

• Social: Open mic @ Orange Tree in HBC (Thursdays); (02) 749-8202

• Travel: 30% discount off KTX tickets reserved through <http://english.visitkoreayear.com> (foreigners only)

• Exhibit: David LaChapelle's photography, It's My Home @ Hangaram Design Museum, Seoul Arts Center; to Feb. 26

Feb
22. Wednesday

• Entertainment: Standup comedy night @ Tony's in Itaewon; 9 p.m.; tonysitaewon.com

• Social: Quiz night @ Craftworks in Nok-sapyeong (Wednesdays)

• Travel: 30% discount off KTX tickets reserved through <http://english.visitkoreayear.com> (foreigners only)

Feb
28. Tuesday

• Food: Rocky Mountain Tavern's 300 won Buffalo Wings (Tuesdays); 010-5189-2327

• Class: SIWS's Jewelry DIY tour & Class @ Namdaemun market; Feb. 27 & 28; 10 a.m.; <http://siwapage.com>

• Lecture: Hanok Restoration and Adaptive Re-use @ Residents' Lounge, Somerset Palace; 7:30 p.m.; www.raskb.com

Feb
5. Sunday

• Theatre: Seoul Players holding auditions for Vagina Monologues; www.seoulplayers.com

• Concert: Galaxy Express @ Rolling Hall in Hongdae; 5 p.m.; rollinghall.co.kr

• Festival: Last day of Pyeongchang Trout Festival; www.festival700.or.kr Province; to Jan. 21; snowfestival.net

Feb
11. Saturday

• Vodka: Vodka Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Saturdays); Bottle of Russian Vodka 39,000 won; (02) 333-1604

• Concert: Crying Nut, Biuret, Nemesis, Galaxy Express @ Rolling Hall in Hongdae; 6 p.m. rollinghall.co.kr

Exhibit: Steve McCurry's Companions for the Globe @ Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul Arts Center, Seocho-gu; to March 4

Feb
17. Friday

• Concert: Evanesence, Bush @ AX-Korea in Seoul; 8 p.m.; <http://ax-korea.co.kr>

• Concert: Toro Y Moi, Vinyl Williams @ V-Hall in Hongdae; 8:30 p.m.; supercolor-super.com

• Social: SIWA's Winter Walking in Insadong event; 10 a.m.; <http://siwapage.com>

Feb
23. Thursday

• Half price appetizers @ Hollywood Bar & Grill in Itaewon (Tuesdays); 5-10 p.m.

• Learn about Korea's cuisine with O'ngo culinary tour of Seoul; ongofood.com

• Social: Quiz night @ 3 Alley Pub in Itaewon; win beer; 3alleypub.com

Feb
29. Wednesday

• Social: Quiz night @ Craftworks in Nok-sapyeong (Wednesdays)

• Exhibit: Gunther von Hagen's Body Worlds @ War Memorial of Korea; to March 8

• Class: SIWA's Raw Soup & Salad Cooking class @ 10 a.m.; <http://siwapage.com>

Feb
6. Monday

• Food: Wing Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Mondays); 400 won/wing; (02) 333-1604

• Social: SIWA Newcomers' Meeting @ M-plaza Seoul Global Cultural Center; 10:30 a.m.; <http://siwapage.com>

• Exhibit: Japanese Buddhist Art @ National Museum of Korea; Through Feb. 19; www.museum.go.kr

Feb
12. Sunday

• Concert: Lamb of God @ AX-Korea in Seoul; 6 p.m.; <http://ax-korea.co.kr>

• Buy a pizza, get second half off @ Beer O'Clock, Shinchon (Sunday); (02) 333-9733

• Exhibit: Mindy Lu Exhibition @ Jay Gallery, Insadong; to Feb 14

Feb
18. Saturday

• Teaching: KOTESOL Workshop @ Injae-guan Center Sookmyung Women's University; seoulkotesol.org

• Concert: Black Bag @ Sangsang Madang; 7:30 p.m.; www.sangsangmadang.com

• Theatre: Seoul Shakespeare Company's Love Bitten @ Camarata Music Studio in Haebangchon; seoulshakespeare.com

Feb
24. Friday

• BBQ happy hour @ Oak Room, Seoul Hilton; Mon-Sat, 6-8:30 p.m.; unlimited meat & beer; 34,700 won; (02) 317-3234

• Concert: GoGo Star, Telepathy @ Sangsang Madang in Hongdae; 8 p.m.; www.sangsangmadang.com

• Beer: Teachers' night @ Big Rock in Gangnam (Fridays); (02) 539-6650

Calendar
UPCOMING
Events

February 2 - February 29

| MEMORABLE

Feb
12

*More details in calendar



Lamb of God @ AX-Korea

Feb.
17

*More details in calendar



Evanesence, Bush @ AX-Korea

Feb.
29

*More details in calendar



Quiz night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Wednesdays)

Foreigners arrested for health insurance fraud

Daegu Police have arrested eight foreigners, including a 26-year-old Vietnamese illegal immigrant, on charges of illegally receiving medical treatment by sharing national health insurance identification numbers.

The Vietnamese and three others are suspected of borrowing the identification numbers from four legal immigrants, including a 26 year old, beginning in 2008 to receive treatment at various locations, including a maternity clinic in the Chimsan-dong neighborhood of Daegu.

The police investigation determined that they were working together when they used the names of people with proper health insurance to save over 10 million won in medical expenses.

Korea University student sexual assault case nears end

The victim in the Korea University medical student sexual assault case spoke in open court for the first time, tearfully asking the judge for a severe punishment.

On Dec. 23, the defense made its closing arguments in the trial of three Korea University medical students presided over by judge Hwang Han-shik of the Seoul High Courts 8th criminal division. The victim, known as "Ms. A," then took the opportunity to speak, which she had requested, saying that "I believe the judge will make a just decision. Please do not make me a victim again."

Ms. A added: "It has been six months (since the incident), but I am still being hurt by it... (One of the defendants) Mr. Bae considered suicide, but I have those thoughts every day and cannot sleep even though I take sleeping pills."

Bullying found to be issue at universities

With group ostracism in middle and high schools becoming a social issue, a study has found that half of university students have been bullied.

The part-time employment website Albamon announced the results of its survey of 885 university students, finding that 46.7 percent reported having been ostracized or bullied by their friends at some point.

The forms of ostracism and bullying included "being completely ignored and treated as an invisible person" (75.7 percent), "being teased and told that everything I do is wrong" (72.4 percent), and "being ignored and humiliated in front of other people" (66.9 percent). 38.2 percent had been physically struck, while 25 percent had something stolen from them.

Police keep an eye on comfort woman statue

Police in Seoul have been keeping an eye on the comfort woman statue installed across the street from the Japanese embassy to prevent it from being defaced and to stop fights from breaking out.

The statue has received a lot of press since it was erected in November with a plaque describing the enslavement of Korean women during the Japanese occupation that lasted through WWII.

The Japanese government had been strenuously resisting the statue and according to YTN News, it announced through Ambassador Fujimura that "this issue has been fully and finally resolved" and "the Japanese government will not be changing its policy regarding the issue."



February 2012

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THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED HERE DO NOT REPRESENT THOSE OF GROOVE KOREA. — ED.

STUDY LINKS SUICIDE TO SCHOOL VIOLENCE

A poll has found that nearly half of Korea's teenagers have been victims of violence at school in the past year. It also found that half of those polled thought about suicide in the week before the survey was conducted, according to a report by Yonhap News.

With the nation still appalled by the shocking bullying-suicide case in Daegu, stories related to bullying and teen violence have been dominating national headlines.

The study conducted by Yonsei University professor Kim Jae-yeop examined 1,140 middle and high school students in Seoul and Gyeonggi Province.

It found that 48 percent of the respondents experienced violence at school during the past year and 42.3 percent had thoughts of suicide in the week before the poll was taken.

Using path-coefficient analysis through average value and standard deviation, the study found correlations between school violence and depression, depression and thoughts of suicide, and school violence and thoughts of suicide.

Teens who experience violence at school tend to be more prone to thoughts of suicide, the study also concluded.

The respondents were more likely to have thoughts of suicide linked to depression if they frequently drank alcohol. The implication is that teenage drinking is influenced by attempts to deal with stress, the study's authors claimed.

"Because school violence leads directly to thoughts of suicide and serious stress, we must discover it early and intervene in order to head off thoughts of suicide," the research team said.

DAEGU STUDENT SUICIDE SHOCKS NATION

The nation has been gripped by the heartbreaking case of a student in Daegu who was bullied by classmates and ended up committing suicide. Police suspect that many more students than initially thought may have been involved.

Police examining the suicide of the middle school student are expanding their investigation beyond the two students named in the bullied student's suicide note to include peers who had spent time in the victim's home.

Daegu police announced that after analyzing security camera footage of the entrance to the victim's apartment building, four unidentified students appear to have been at the scene on the evening of the incident.

According to authorities, one of the students on the videotape is shown laughing with the victim. However, the other three appear to be assaulting and taunting the victim. Police are still working to determine their identities.

Seven students are being sought in the investigation, including those named in the suicide note, at least six of whom are known to have bullied the victim.

Police have confirmed that the main suspect forced the victim to register for an online video game so he could use the victim's account. The main suspect logged in to the game 845 times in March alone.

Police plan to confer with prosecutors and might bring charges against three more students.

Police also found over 20 posts written about the victim by the accused students on a major Internet portal site.

Authorities are considering charging even more students under the country's strict defamation laws.

They now suspect that the suicide of a female student at the same school in July may have a connection to related evidence in this case.

80% OF CHILD IMMIGRANTS DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL

A study has found that foreign children who immigrate to Korea for reasons including the remarriage of a parent experience difficulties in school life and almost 80 percent do not even attend classes.

The Seoul Foundation of Women and Family announced results of its survey of 875 foreign teenagers in Korea aged 7 to 18, finding that just 21.7 percent of them attend elementary, middle, or high school.

The survey found that as children grow older, they become less likely to attend school. The attendance rate was 56.4 percent for elementary school-aged children but 18.1 percent for middle- and a mere 3.1 percent for high school-aged adolescents.

The organization said that "teenagers 15 or older staying in the country temporarily face the difficulty of being both in the confusion of puberty and coming from a multicultural family. Educational authorities need to solve this problem with Korean language education, psychological aid and counseling."

The teenagers came to Korea either because their parents married or took Korean citizenship. Typically, they have a foreign mother who marries a Korean man.

An official with the city said that, "recently the Seoul Center for Multicultural Families Education has been working with the organizations Chung Mong-gu Foundation and the Center for Multiculturalism in Korea and plans to offer Korean language and high school equivalency diploma lessons."

CANADIAN CONFESSES TO KILLING GIRLFRIEND

A Canadian man turned himself in to police for murdering a female university student who drowned in the Han River three years ago.

The Yongsan Police Station announced that it had applied for an arrest warrant after the man confessed to murdering his then-lover. The man said he feared the woman had been plotting to kill him. He told police in his confession that, "my lover, Ms. Kim, was meeting other people and I began to have a complex that she would kill me."

The Canadian is accused of throwing the then 21-year-old Kim into the Han River in Ichon-dong in March of 2009.

The man began working at a Korean university in 2001. Immediately after the incident took place the man denied he had committed a crime. He claimed Kim had fallen into the river while chasing a tennis ball, and no contrary evidence was uncovered.

However, after returning to Canada he said he was wracked with guilt and turned to religion for comfort.

He sought advice from an American pastor and then decided to contact the victim's family. He eventually went to the police with the pastor and Kim's mother to turn himself in.

A member of the police said, "he confessed under the thought that, despite his repentance and the passage of time, by being punished under Korean law and making a confession to the victim's family he could assuage his guilt."

Netizens had various reactions to the news of the murder and the man's confession. One person wrote, "It's lucky that the defendant was so full of sadness, otherwise we would never have known the true story."

N.K. banishing defectors' families to countryside

The Daegu human rights organization Good Friends reported that North Korea has been punishing the families of defectors by exiling them to the countryside, where food shortages are acute and electricity is mostly non-existent.

According to organization's North Korea research, "authorities in North Korea are investigating families with a history of moving in and out of the frontier provinces to see if any of them are missing."

Citizens who are discovered to have illegally crossed the border, secretly used mobile phones, or possessing South Korean products are targets of the investigation, the report said.

Kim Jong-il funeral procession raises eyebrows of gearheads

That the fervently anti-American dictator Kim Jong-ill took his last ride through the streets of his capital in an American-made automobile caught the attention of car buffs around the world.

Kim's funeral procession prominently featured American-made Detroit Lincoln automobiles. That caused the website The Detroit Bureau to speculate on how exactly the car got to Pyongyang in the first place. It concluded that a Japanese Food dealer was the source of the Lincolns.

Yonhap News dug into its archives and found that Kim Il-sung's funeral procession also featured Lincolns.

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KIM ORDERS 'IL-ADVISED' CURRENCY PLAN

North Korean authorities have instituted a strict ban on the use of foreign currencies, claiming the deceased dictator Kim Jong-il ordered its implementation when he was on his deathbed.

The online publication Daily NK, which reports on North Korean news, said that a report in the province of Hambgeyongbuk-do, called it "a deathbed order (of Kim Jong-il). The authorities have warned that they will severely punish anyone caught using foreign currency such as dollars and yuan."

The report continued: "The order is to punish users of foreign currencies more severely than the use of illegal drugs ... it appears it will be fully implemented."

However, some experts are skeptical that the ban will be executed. Most North Korean markets primarily operate using foreign currencies because the North Korean currency is virtually useless due to out of control inflation.

If enforced, the measure would effectively eliminate all private trade in the already deeply impoverished nation.

This isn't the first time the country has faced a crisis due to ill-advised economic policy.

The country ordered a won redenomination in 2009 that was responsible for the collapse in the value of its currency. That year, North Korea converted all 100 won bills into 1 won bills, but this led to severe inflation and rare citizen resistance. Little warning was given and strict limits were put in place on how much people could convert.

Park Nam-gil was blamed for the policy failure. He was purged from the Worker's Party after the bungling of the currency reform and replaced by Hong Seok-hyeong. Some reports said he was executed.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE TO STAY ON EDUCATIONAL RECORD

The Ministry of Science, Education, and Technology announced that beginning March 1, it will maintain "educational records" for all elementary, middle, and high school students that will, among other things, document instances of violence.

The rule will not apply retroactively, only to incidents of school violence occurring on or after March 1.

When an incident occurs, any student who is found by the school's committee on school violence to have participated will have notations made of their punishments on their school transcripts, attendance records and particular actions. Punishments can include written apologies, community service, suspension, counseling and transfer to another school.

The permanent record of the punishment will be available to high schools and universities upon request before their entrance examinations, and those schools will be free to use the information in admissions.

The recording of school violence incidents will be done in accordance with article 2 of the law on preventing school violence. Recordable incidents, whether committed on or outside of school property, will include causing physical or mental harm or property damage through injury, assault, making threats, robbery, defamation, blackmail, forced sex and sexual assault, ostracism, and use of technology to spread sexual or violent information.

The information will stay on record for five years for elementary and middle school students and 10 years for high school students.

The Ministry plans to inform schools and municipal offices of education about managing the educational records.

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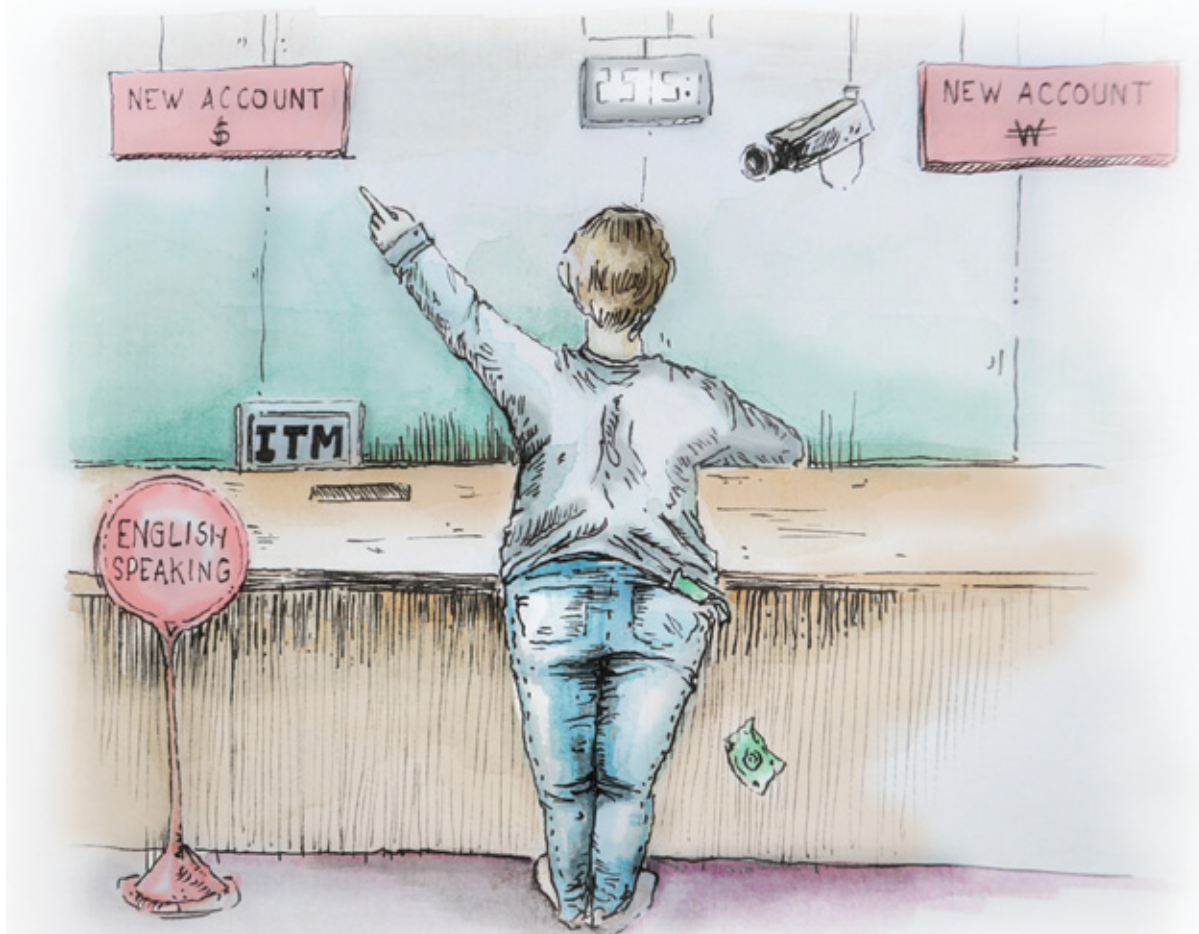
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COLUMNS
Baking Questions,
Michelle answers.
By: Michelle Farnsworth

"Dear Michelle: Banking Advice for Expats" is a monthly column written by Michelle Farnsworth. Michelle is the Foreign Client Relationship Manager in the Shinhan Bank Foreign Customer Department. Please visit the "Shinhan Expat Banking" on Facebook for more information. The banking information provided in this column is based on Shinhan Bank policies and may not be applicable to all banks in Korea. - Ed.

Opening a foreign currency account

Find out how you can insulate your money from won fluctuations



DEAR MICHELLE,
Can I open a foreign currency account in Korea?
~Won is Not Enough

Dear Won is Not Enough,

Foreign currency accounts, sometimes called multi-currency accounts, are available to you at your local bank in Korea. A foreign currency account is a useful account for organizing, saving, withdrawing, remitting overseas and receiving inward overseas remittances in several different currencies.

You can deposit and withdraw any foreign currency – except Korean won – whose interest rate is officially posted by your bank.

Most banks split their available currencies into two groups: major traded currencies and other traded currencies. Major traded currencies are available at virtually all banks; other traded currencies may not always be available at every branch. However, available currencies will always vary by bank.

Of special note is that while the Chinese yuan (RMB) may be available at your bank, the Chinese government controls the quantity and flow of the

yuan very carefully, so the exchange rates are volatile and the availability can be unpredictable.

Foreign currency time deposits are also available. A time deposit is a useful savings product for those who would like to invest a lump sum in a foreign currency for a pre-determined term and earn a fixed interest rate over that period.

A foreign currency account is a useful account for organizing, saving, withdrawing, remitting overseas and receiving inward overseas remittances in several different currencies.

The interest rate you earn would be based on the interest rate that is posted by that currency's country, but other factors such as the supply and demand for that currency in Korea could also affect the posted interest rate.

Foreign currency accounts held by foreign residents are subject to strict federal regulations that are mandated by the Bank of Korea. All banks must follow these regulations on foreign currency accounts. These regulations prohibit direct transfers between foreign currency accounts and Korean won accounts. These regulations also prohibit transfers between foreign residents' foreign currency accounts and the foreign currency accounts of Korean nationals. These regulations are in place to help the Bank of Korea manage and control the inflow and outflow of Korean won.

The cash handling fees that

may be applied when making a deposit or withdrawal to or from your foreign currency account can be a little confusing. You are only required to pay cash handling fees once – either at the time of deposit or the time of withdrawal – and only when actual foreign currency (cash) is involved in a transaction. This is to cover the bank's cost of holding foreign currency cash on hand.

Foreign currency accounts, including time deposits, are insured by the Korea Deposit Insurance Corporation (KDIC) under the Depositor Protection Act for up to and including 50 million won (or equivalent), including principal and interest, per person, per bank.



Shinhan Bank Foreign Customer Department

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COLUMNS

Repatriate Me
By: Sean Smith

This monthly column is a best-of from a blog Sean Smith started at the beginning of his plan to move back to Canada after living in Korea since 1997. You can read it in its entirety at <http://repatriate.me>. This month's column is a combination of a post written Oct. 9, 2009 about what he suspected he would miss about living in Korea. The Second was written two years later, on Sept. 26, 2011 on five things he liked about living in Toronto.
- Ed.

What I'll miss most about Seoul And five things I like about Toronto



What I'll miss most about Seoul Oct. 9, 2009, Seoul

Neighborhood shops

It's really convenient that everything I need is within walking distance from my home. Local supermarkets are often cheaper than the big chains like HomePlus, though the selection is lacking. Within a 5 minute walk of every home I've had in Korea, I've always been able to find two or three local supermarkets, cheap restaurants, dry cleaners, a flower shop, watch shop (selling and repairs), hardware store and computer shop.

Service

Korean companies really know how to treat the customer right. If I need to have my Internet hooked up when moving in, I can call the company and usually they'll be there that day. Generally speaking, customer service revolves around the convenience of the customer. Need something repaired or serviced? Usually it's just a matter of calling up the company and they'll send a service guy to your apartment at a time that's convenient for you. Gotta love customer service that is customer oriented.

Korean

After being in Korea for so long and not having to listen to English everywhere I go, it's easy for me to concentrate when I'm out and about. When people are talking around me, it's just white noise and not distracting. However, anytime I've gone to Canada for a visit, I go crazy walking around the streets, mall or wherever, because I can't help but listen in on what people are saying.

Public transportation

Public transportation in Seoul is cheap, clean and efficient. The subway system is extensive with nine main lines and three subsidiary lines. Taking the subway costs about \$1 for a basic fare and will get you almost anywhere you want. The buses are frequent, though a little scary to ride due to the psychotic nature of driving in this country (a topic for a different column). The best thing is the electronic transportation card - good for the subway and the bus. If you transfer to the subway or another bus, you don't get charged extra. Bonus points for having credit cards chipped with this so your bus/subway fare gets auto billed each month.

Cheap high-speed Internet

Broadband here is truly broadband, unlike what you get in Canada. I'm currently running some downloads on my computer, streaming music and syncing my hard drive with remote storage. My monthly Internet bill is only \$35 and I have no upload/download limits.

Need something repaired or serviced? Usually it's just a matter of calling up the company and they'll send a service guy to your apartment at a time that's convenient for you. Gotta love customer service that is customer oriented.

Five things I like about Toronto

Sept. 26, 2011, Toronto

I've been in Toronto just short of three months now and it's time to write about the things I like about living here as compared to living in Korea. Here's the first five.

Supermarket selection

I love going to the supermarket. I can buy anything I can imagine and it isn't going to break the bank. The selection is staggering and is almost too much, but it's really great to be able to buy avocados that don't cost \$5 apiece (if you can even find them). While living in Seoul I never made lasagne because I could never find all the ingredients I needed at the same time. Sure, I could find all the ingredients, but they were spread across four different supermarkets and up to two black markets - effectively making it impractical to actually cook.

Grass

Yes grass. The kind you smoke is available if that's your thing (I've already been offered some a few times), but it's not my thing. More importantly is grass on the ground. In Seoul, for the most part, parks have grass, but it's fenced off and only available for looking at. In Korea, when you visit the park, you plant your mat/blanket on the dirt or cement and gaze longingly at the grass. There are a couple of exceptions (Seoul Forest being one of them), but for the most part one is not allowed to touch the grass. In Toronto I've got a backyard! Even if you have a yard in Korea it will be packed earth, if you're lucky, or cement. Parks in Korea require you to drive to find them. I've got three parks within walking distance of where I live.

Courtesy

Yes common courtesy here is, well, common. People for the most part will say "excuse me" if they bump into you, stand to one side when one gets into or out of an elevator or subway train. I've actually had to re-learn some of this behaviour, including smiling and greeting strangers, which feels so odd after living in Seoul for so long.

Clean air

I didn't really notice how dirty the Seoul air was because in the 15 years I'd been there it had improved dramatically (blue sky days had at the time I left been close to 50 percent vs. essentially non-existent in 1997), and I felt that it was close to how clean the air was in Canada. I was wrong. Whilst living in Seoul we would clean our apartment floor every day - sometimes twice a day - but it would still be covered by a fine black dust that would inevitably stain ones feet/socks a dark gray. I also found it was necessary to clean my ears every second day with cotton swabs. Here in Toronto - arguably Canada's most polluted major city - I've not noticed any amount of dirt on the floors or in my ears.

Quiet

It's so quiet here. I live in Toronto itself (not downtown, but not North York, Scarborough or one of the burbs that make up the GTA). It's so quiet here. I mean completely silent - as in you can hear a pin drop. The density of the urban landscape in Seoul made it perpetually noisy. There was traffic, construction, neon buzzing or just plain people noise. The noise pollution is overwhelming. The thing is, over time I stopped noticing it. I guess one can get used to anything. I thought my neighborhood in Seoul was quiet (and it was, relatively speaking) but now that I'm living in Toronto, I know what silence is. In the same way I feel that there is little to no light pollution. In Seoul, I could get up in the middle of the night and walk around and see everything. Here in Toronto if I wake up I almost need a flash light to see the door out of the bedroom.



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COLUMNS

Race Relations
By: Mike Hurt

Michael Hurt is the editor-in-chief of Yahae magazine. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of Groove Korea. To comment, e-mail opinion@groovekorea.com. - Ed.

'Be White'



In her ads for Smoothie King, figure skater Kim Yuna says: "Be White." In Korea, that's sage advice. Just like the smoothie – and Korean positive associations with things and people "white" – one should be "soft" and "innocent." I even remember the 90's music group called White, which sang saccharine love ballads that overflowed with affected expressions of innocence, youthful purity, and other positive emotions that reflected true love unadulterated by the vulgar passions.

Koreans love white people. And if you're a brother with another color, well they just don't like you as much.

Now, I'm not saying that every single person here doesn't like colored folk, nor that individuals aren't nice to us brown and black people – but in the aggregate, Korean society puts black and brown people on a different tier. If a Filipino is standing on the street looking lost, he isn't going to get directions

as fast – or at all. In fact, the darker he is, it's much more likely that the police might ask him what he's up to, and inquire on the status and validity of his visa.

In the 1990s, when I first came here, I'd take my friend Beth around for the "blue-eyed special," as we called it, where Koreans would give us free food, drinks, and even tickets to stuff. "Welcome to Korea."

I did an impromptu experiment at a CGV movie theatre once with a white friend in 2002. He went up to buy his movie ticket after me. I spoke in Korean, got my ticket, then came back. My friend, without prompting for any of it, not only got a free ticket, but also the ticket girl's phone number, and even an extra free movie pass. I mean, I'm not asking for extras, but come on!

Koreans love white people. And if you're a brother with another color, well they just don't like you as much.

And to those white folks who continue to insist "Well, I never had any problems," or love to pontificate on how it must all be in our (colored folks) imaginations (because they would know, right?), try to walk a day in a South Asian, Arab, or black man's shoes. The trail is longer and harder.

That's why I apply for jobs by sending in a resume first, following up with a phone call in Korean second, then hoping for a first date in an interview chair. Funny thing is, without exception, I walk in at the appointed time and am greeted with, "And you are?" or "How can I help you?" I then inform them that I am Michael Hurt and I've got an interview at this time, at which point the person at the door or desk is like "Oooooooh! YOU are Michael Hurt! Oh, come right in."

When I was learning Korean in the 1990's and I'd go around with Beth. Since there was no English at all where we were, people had to speak Korean. In doing so, they would have to pick between who they thought was more likely to speak it. I'd be in a camera or electronics shop doing pretty OK in Korean, asking questions about something I was looking for, and they'd answer back to Beth. The triangle would continue, even if I was the only one talking. That changed in the 2000's, since there are a lot of brown and black folks here to work who now speak a lot of Korean. (And it's funny that those folks are given next to no credit for learning the language.)

But as my former director,

Dr. Horace Underwood III, liked to quip, "If a white man stumbles out an an-nyee-ong-ham-sheeeem-neeker, Koreans lose their minds. 'Oh, you speak Korean so well!'"

EBS finally did the experiment I had always wanted to do. They put a tall, white man ("Lee") against a man from Southeast Asia ("Ganawan") to see how people on the street would react to their requests for directions. The result was predictable: Lee had no problems getting help, but Ganawan had a hard time getting anyone to slow down for him.

I propose more experiments!

How about a handsome, tall, black man and a lithe, attractive Korean woman walk hand-in-hand through a train on subway Line No. 1 – front to back? No fewer than hundreds of people would crank their necks as far as possible to get a glimpse.

Or sit an Indian man (or me!) on a crowded city bus and watch if the empty seat next to him is ever taken. Put a timer on the bottom of the screen! The first one who loses the bet that passengers will choose to stand for an hour rather than sit beside him buys lunch!

Oh, the fun we could have EBS.



TP
A brand of toilet paper photographed in an E-Mart in January.



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LAMB OF GOD

HEAVY METAL FOR A NEW GENERATION

By: Kathy Kearns

Metal fans know that when Lamb of God comes to town, it is a show that cannot be missed. Formed in the early 90's in Richmond, Virginia, years of hard work and dedication have propelled the band to the very top of the modern heavy metal scene. They first gained notoriety with *As The Palaces Burn* (2003), which won record of the year in top rock and metal publications, *Revolver* and *Metal Hammer*, and even received coverage in *Rolling Stone* and *Entertainment Weekly*. Soon after, they co-headlined MTV's *Headbanger's Ball* tour and solidified their place in the metal world with another acclaimed album, *Ashes of the Wake* (2004).

Today, they've only continued to gain momentum with their sixth studio album, *Wrath* (2009), debuting at No. 2 on the *Billboard* Top 200. The secret to the band's success? Working hard and staying focused on making great metal. Period. Although Lamb of God is signed to a major label, the band has been careful to retain complete control over the creative process and has avoided selling out to any commercial trends. In doing so, it has attracted more and more fans and cracked the metal market wide open. Groove Korea spoke to frontman Randy Blythe about Lamb of God's upcoming Seoul show on Feb. 12 at AX-Korea and their highly anticipated new album, *Resolution*.

FEBRUARY
IN CONCERT

Lamb of God

By: Kathy Kearns

Photos: Travis Shinn

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INTERVIEW

This is your first time in South Korea, correct? Do you have any idea what to expect?

Yes, it is our first time. I expect to eat a lot of bibimbap. And I expect to play in front of a lot of fans wearing black T-shirts, because the fans are really universal in terms of the way they react across the world. We have some South Korean fans we've actually met in China, or I think in Japan, who came to see us. So we'll hang out with them because we've met them before.

I'm really just looking forward to eating a lot. I love Korean food. I love all the pickled vegetables and stuff they have there. Kimchi in particular is one of my favorite pickled vegetables. I hate regular pickles, but I love Asian pickles so I'm looking forward to trying that.

South Korea is just starting to come into its own as far as rock music goes, with various festivals and its own metal scene. And it is becoming more and more popular as a stop off for international tours. As far as you know, is South Korea on the radar as a place for metal acts?

I have no idea about other metal acts, but it's definitely been on our radar for a while. And I think there have been other offers, but this is the first one that was really serious and worked out with our schedule and so forth. We've been to a lot of countries lately that are just opening up, like India. They have a pretty strong metal scene there and bands are starting to get there. A lot of bands are starting to play Indonesia. And it's happening pretty quickly. When you have a good experience in a country and you talk to other bands, you're like, "Man, go to South Korea."

Asian culture, in general, is typically more conservative and reserved than Western culture. How have you found the crowds that you've played to in this part of this world?

It's interesting, there are cultural differences. The crowd in Japan ... it's a long held belief amongst bands that in Japan when you're done playing, they clap very loudly for a second and then it's dead silence. It's really freaky because they aren't being disrespectful at all. They're just looking, they're watching and they're taking it in. And in America people are yelling Lynard Skynard songs out or whatever (laughs).

I've noticed in Japan that the crowd has gotten rowdier in the way they dance. Our fans are pretty nuts and they've gotten really rowdy and I think maybe that's because of YouTube or something. But in China it was crazy, we were playing and we had this whole line of people in front of us and they were dancing together with their arms around each other in a long line. Like a chorus line, but they were bowing. It was really intense. It was one of the coolest things I had ever seen. They got into it.



Asian cultures are all different, but in general our fans are all crazy. No matter what country you go to, you will find the craziest people of any ethnic group, any nationality, any religion, and any creed. Anything, it's all the craziest ones. So we expect to see crazy Koreans.

Your seventh studio album, Resolution, is dropping very soon. What excites you most about this album?

Really just playing the new songs. The last tour cycle was two and half years or something like that and when we started it we had a new record. Just like this time, where we are starting a new tour cycle and we have a new record. That is always the most fun at the beginning, just going out and playing new songs. We've been playing some of the other songs for 14 or 15 years, so to be able to break it up and add something else to the arsenal is super cool.

"For me, going into the studio, I think the vibe was really, really good all around. I was pretty excited, because I knew (Josh) could get the things out of me. And it being the second record he's produced, we had already learned how each other worked."

Can you tell us a little bit about the album itself? Anything unique that stands out to you?

Well, it's the first album we've done that I've enjoyed listening to during the mixing process. Because you have to listen to your music again and again once it's done while you're mixing. Normally I dread that because I don't like listening to our music since I play it all the time. In the mixing room I'm always the last piece of the puzzle. I will have just gotten done recording and go straight into mixing, so I'm pretty burned out. This time I actually enjoyed listening to the record because I think it's a culmination of all of our records. It's everything we've learned – the best assets of what we've learned on each record – along with some new things. And I think this record also captures our live sound probably the best of any record. Because we are pretty powerful live. I'm quite looking forward to it coming out and seeing what people think.

Any favorite tracks?

Yeah I like the last track, "King Me," a whole lot. I think it's pretty majestic. It goes a lot of different places. I just like that track, but I like them all.

You worked with producer Josh Wilbur again, with whom you worked on Wrath. What was it like to go back into the studio with him this time? What was the energy like?

We had a much longer pre-production period for this recording, which was really nice. He was kind of there from the beginning as sort of an outside voice to buffer the personality conflicts that can occur when you're writing a record. And we trust him. He was an engineer on Sacramento and he produced Wrath, so it's the third record we've worked on with him and he knows us very well. He knows us as band members, he knows us as people and we like him a whole lot. He's like part of the family.

So for us to let someone into our group, it's really hard. Because we're an insular bunch. We're really tight knit when it comes to the creative process. We don't want anybody else's opinions. And to have someone come in at the beginning to help us shape the record – he didn't write it, but he helped us shape the record – it was something new. It was a little bit scary at first and there was some head butting, but it worked out great.

For me, going into the studio, I think the vibe was really, really good all around. I was pretty excited, because I knew (Josh) could get the things out of me. And it being the second record he's produced, we had already learned how each other worked. You know, he learned how I worked as a singer and I learned how he worked as a producer. So it's kind of like, after the courtship period. The first record was kind of like when you start dating someone and you're getting to know them and it's all cool and exciting. And after a while your relationship matures into something really good if it's worth it. For this second record it felt like everything just fell into place. All the awkward stuff was out of the way.

Your last album, Wrath, was No. 2 on the Billboard charts. Other metal acts have cracked the top 10 in recent years as well. What do you think has led to this increased interest in metal?

Well, there are a couple of aspects to it. Music is cyclical. And in the 90's and the late 80's, there was a good period where metal was gaining momentum. You know, throughout the 80's – Metallica, Slayer, Anthrax, Megadeth and all that stuff. They were selling some records and then that kind of went away. Then in '94 we started the band because there wasn't a lot of metal. There wasn't nearly as much metal as there was before and we wanted it, so that's why we started it. So music just moves in cycles. The other thing is that we never changed; the people's tastes have changed. The market came to us, we didn't go to the market. I don't know, maybe the climate of the world wants to hear a something a little more brutal. And the other thing that has contributed to us having such a high album-charting place is declining record sales. People just download everything off the Internet now. However, metal fans, hardcore hip-hop fans and punk rock fans still tend to support the artist and buy the record. For metalheads it's not just music, it's a lifestyle. It affects aesthetic choices, it affects who you hang out with, it affects what you do in your spare time. And it's not so much this untouchable "Justin Bieber" pop diva sort of thing. These are just regular dudes who actually just strap on their instruments and play music. We don't have costumes or anything. We don't wear makeup. There's no pyrotechnics. These are just a bunch of rednecks from Virginia. So I think fans connect with that.

FEBRUARY IN CONCERT

Lamb of God
By: Kathy Kearns
Photos: Travis Shinn

GROOVE EXCLUSIVE



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What are the biggest changes you have seen in metal over the past five years?

I think the technical proficiency of some of the younger kids who are actually doing it is increasing amazingly rapidly. There are kids who just shred so hard. Like 16 year old kids who can rip on a technically proficient level. And that's a good thing.

One thing I don't like is that everything is being categorized to death in these ridiculous subgenres. The subgenres have exploded into just a million and one different names for the same thing – for heavy metal. And it's getting really elitist and snotty and shitty with these kids. Also the whole home digital recording thing has also made it a little unfair for the kids who really do practice, because now kids can play a riff once and then just loop it. You don't actually have to learn. But as I said before, there are kids today who are just sick, amazingly proficient.

Is there one band who is your all time favorite, one you look up to and always admired? Or someone today who you admire?

I'll give you both. As far as heavy metal goes, a band I always look up to is the creators of heavy metal, Black Sabbath. They're the best. They undoubtedly invented heavy metal. And then in the last 10 years, a band I think everyone should keep their eyes on is Gojira from France. They're freaking amazing. And they are friends of mine. They became friends of mine after I was a fan of theirs. I've toured with them a few times and they are just great, great dudes and a wonderful band.

Which bands are you currently listening to? Anything that's not metal?

Yeah, I listen to tons of stuff that's not metal. I don't listen to nothing but heavy metal. I listen to some of it, and the metal I listen to is generally not a lot like mine. There's a band called Sourvein from North Carolina that I've been listening to a lot. I've been listening to the new Amebix record a lot. I'm listening to Black Breath. Rainbow Arabia, they are kind of an electronic pop duo from LA. A guy named Paul Watson who did a record called Wooden Arms. It's really beautiful music. A guy named Jon Gomm who is a guitar virtuoso. Go on YouTube and look up "Passionflower" by Jon Gomm and it will blow your mind what this guy does with the guitar. The Sisters of Mercy, a goth band from back in the day. Pusha T is hip-hop from Virginia. I like his new record a lot.

Being a vocalist in a band like this is extremely physically demanding, how do you stay fit and stay mentally on top of your game, especially when on an international tour?



"I meet the fans and they are like, 'You are so nice! You're so polite, you're so sweet.' And I'm like, what did you think I was? I'm not 'Mr. Heavy Metal.' I'm not like this animal. I'm a regular dude in a band. That's it. I'm a regular guy with an interesting job."

I think I just get used to feeling like crap (laughs). The first week of the tour I'm like, oh my god I am so sore. I feel like someone beat me. And I realize that I don't think I get any less sore. I think I just sort of internalize it and get used to it. When I come home from a tour and I sit down on my couch or on my bed five minutes after I'm home and I kiss the wife. I just sit down for a minute and start decompressing and my body just goes uhhhhhhhh. I'm like, holy crap.

For me mentally, touring is all about being grateful that I'm able to do this amazing thing and get paid for it. And do what I love for a living. And it's also trying to take advantage of the situation and go out and see the places that I see. Physically, it's tougher as I get older. It hurts more and I'm going to have to start working out a little bit more and resting a little bit more. I don't drink, I don't party anymore and that's helping. I can't do it like I did when I was a young man. I'm 40. It just hurts too much. But just trying to take it easy, take care of myself. Eat vitamins. Like regular responsible adult stuff. These are life skills that I'm learning very late.

What is one thing that would surprise your fans about you?

That I am just a wonderfully nice, polite, well-spoken Southern gentleman. That I am not an angry crazy lunatic who runs around screaming in the heavy metal voice all the time. I meet the fans and they are like, "You are so nice! You're so polite, you're so sweet." And I'm like, what did you think I was? I'm not "Mr. Heavy Metal" or something. I'm not like this animal. I'm a regular dude in a band. That's it. I'm a regular guy with an interesting job. I'm a pretty nice dude.



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FEBRUARY
in concertEvanescence &
Bush to rock Seoul
By: Matthew Lamers

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EVANESCENCE & BUSH

BRING DECADES OF ROCK TO SEOUL

By: Matthew Lamers

It ain't easy being a rock star. If the pressure from labels and fans doesn't wear you down, the booze and travel will.

Evanescence and Bush have faced upheaval over their illustrious careers. Both bands have seen almost wholesale turnover in personnel and Bush sat out most of the last decade.

Evanescence and Bush will share the AX-Korea stage on Feb. 17. Tickets are available for the bargain-basement price of 132,000 won.

Before taking a hiatus to start a family, Gavin Rossdale's post-grunge rock kept him at the top of the charts (well, in the nited States at least). The band has sold in the neighbourhood of 15 million records.

Amy Lee has ruled the alternative rock charts for years and was named the "Hot-test Chick in Hard Rock" in 2011 by *Revolver Magazine*. The Evanescence co-founder and lead vocalist has helped make them one of the most successful woman-led rock acts of all time. The band has sold over 20 million albums.

In separate e-mail interviews with Groove Korea, Amy Lee and Gavin Rossdale shared their thoughts on how they have evolved as musicians, helped along by disruptions in their personal and professional lives.

The bands share a similar narrative.

Over the last decade Evanescence has had to cope with the loss of a number of key members. David Hodges left in 2002 and co-founder Ben Moody departed one year later, followed by guitarist John LeCompt and drummer Rocky Gray in 2007.

After picking up a few replacements, Evanescence hasn't skipped a beat. (Well, there was a bit of a break in there). Their new album, the self-titled Evanescence, debuted at No. 1 on four different Billboard charts.

"I'm always changing, and so is our music. I think you can hear our growth as a band on the newest record: me pushing myself vocally and having confidence in our sound, which means knowing who we are enough to be able to play around a little," said Lee. "It's still Evanescence, but with all these new sounds."

Lee said The Open Door tour at the end of 2007 left her exhausted.

"My life had been all about Evanescence since I was a teenager – just jumping straight into the next thing every time. While taking a hiatus, I just poured myself into a normal life and rested. But I couldn't help but play music.

"Evanescence was a huge part of me – naturally. It was not just this thing we invented. So we came back together," she added.

It's a similar script for Bush. After a split in 2002, original members Nigel Pulsford, Dave Parsons and Gavin Rossdale pursued their own projects. It wasn't until 2010 that the band was

reborn with the additions of Chris Traynor and Corey Britz. "And the new lineup feels amazing," said Rossdale. "The main thing that I'm so grateful for is how much I like them. That's the best place to make music from. (Chris and Corey) make me one lucky singer because I get to experience both of

them, and they make the old songs sound better."

The album *The Sea of Memories* was released last September and "The Sound of Winter," reached No. 1 on the Billboard charts. "It's like a new incarnation; ('The

Sound of Winter") is getting so much love on the radio and people are really digging it," added Rossdale. "It's a kind of bridge from the old to where we're going musically."

Amy Lee said that Evanescence is going to focus on having some fun this year. "We're making it a goal to just go to all those countries where we have

fans. That's sort of our goal for this year – to go everywhere and tour all the places we've never been and see the world. Have some fun.

"Now we're a tighter unit than ever and that core – the band – is the driving force of the songs and the sound," said Lee. "We took the best songs we had, added more, and reworked them

as a group. They're stronger than ever."

When Evanescence and Bush hit the AX-Korea stage on Feb. 17, it will be their first time performing in Korea.

Following is the interview with Gavin Rossdale.

Evanescence

This will be the first time the band performs on the peninsula.

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Bush to rock Seoul
By: Matthew Lamers

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INTERVIEW

Gavin Rossdale
Bush

What's different about Bush's sound now compared to 15 years ago?

I love the classic Bush sound, though it's all about my dumb voice and a heavy guitar. But that's my thing! We chose very-Bush style tracks like before for our fans. The more it is simple, the more fans like it.

How has the process changed? Do you still make music for the same reasons you used to?

In terms of the way I'm making the music, it is drastically different. When I first started, I would do songs on acoustic guitar, or just like with a drum machine or a distorted guitar in my room.

Now I've got the point where I work backwards. If I sit down with an acoustic guitar I just end up playing a Neil Young song. I don't gravitate toward that kind of songwriting, because I find it more fun to play Pink Floyd. So I just immerse myself with any instrument in the studio. Get a melody by any means necessary. I often start with drums and bass and sing on that and then add the guitar afterwards. It's really rare that it comes from the guitar actually, just because I like the warmth of the bass. It's a really intriguing way to write.



This will be the first time the band performs on the peninsula.

And where will that take you? Where would you like to see Bush in a decade?

For our music style, today, I am mining the past for clues to the future, and have come up with an album that reflects both sides of that time quotient.

When making music, you have a choice to repeat what you've done or move on. It would've been safe to just rework (1994's debut album) Sixteen Stone over and over, but what kind of life would that be? I like the idea of art changing, developing and morphing and we'll be on it.

How has being a father influenced your evolution as a musician?

I think musicians are so emotional and when it comes to me, I've gotten more so after being a father.

Everything I do and say is changed by them. I want my sons to see me play and think: "That's wicked." At the moment they just want to march around the house to the song from the Jungle Book. We do that about 17 times a day.

And lately I've heard from people that I've become more caring and less selfish. I think it's because of them.

In an interview with FaveCulture last year, you said "The journey that we've been on, however painful, however happy, is who we become." Can you share with readers a couple of the happiest and most painful moments in your life?

My marriage to Gwen has been nothing but happiness. Actually, when I'm on tour, the worst thing is not waking up next to her. It's painful. But who has a life without pain?

And the worst moment was last year when our son Zuma was hospitalized after a fall. He broke his arm after taking a tumble from a countertop at home. It was a heart-breaking night for everyone. It was one of the worst nights of our lives. It was one of those freak events. A freak accident. He's fine now. It's almost worse for us as parents. The kids are never alone and you turn your back – it takes a split second.

What do you do, or where do you go, to escape?

Gwen and my favorite beach place to visit is Zuma. That's in California and it's so beautiful. My little boy was named after the fabulous spot.

And I love spending my free time indulging in a game of tennis. There are a few things that I do well – tennis is one of them. I play in the morning and love it.



Can you talk about the freedom that running your own label gives you, as opposed to the limitations and expectations that come with being tied to a major label?

Even by the time of my solo records, leaning on a record label was like getting in the ring with one arm tied behind my back. The Sea of Memories is Bush's first indie effort since the early 1990s. Running our own label has been so liberating – taking away all of those dinosaur elements and feeling alive and sprightly and ready for anything, rather than being attacked by a pack of hyenas.

In my line of music it's just a no-brainer. Given that, you have to say "OK, how do we keep it as modern and progressive as we can?" It just seemed like the logical way, and the freedom is immense.

Anything in particular you look forward to ahead of your first visit to Seoul?

This is the first time we'll visit Korea and we have a lot of fans there. We're honored and looking forward to meeting them!



"Everything I do and say is changed by (my family). I want my sons to see me play and do shows and think: 'That's wicked.' At the moment they just want to march around the house to the song from the Jungle Book. We do that about 17 times a day." — Gavin Rossdale

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FEBRUARY
IN CONCERT

Super Color Super

By: Nigel Gillis

Sketch photos by:
Songjae

Super Color Super is a collective of artists and musicians organizing concerts and helping other creative initiatives. Bringing a variety of local and overseas talent together in Korea for the past two years, it has grown into an internationally-recognized indie booking agency, applauded for its efforts to put on concerts with lower ticket prices. In January the collective hosted Indietronic legend Her Space Holiday on its final tour, enchanting audiences in four cities while touring across Korea.

FEBRUARY IN CONCERT:
2 SHOEGAZE ACTS & KALEIDOSCOPIC ART

- Some great shows are in store for February. Let's start with Toro Y Moi and Vinyl Williams, who will play in Seoul's V-Hall on Feb. 17.

Secondly, and perhaps one of the most anticipated events this month, is Super Sketch: Seoul Edition. A one-night, vernissage-style A/V party, featuring a lethal arrangement of live music and a spectrum of visual work by numerous artists. This takes place Feb. 25 at Platoon Kunsthalle in Seoul.

South Carolina's Chazwick Bundick returns to Korea this month to again enthrall audiences just over six months after touring through Seoul and Busan with a three-piece band.

TORO Y MOI

Applauded for his work in helping the chill-wave scene in recent years, South Carolina's Chazwick Bundick is perhaps better known by the moniker Toro Y Moi. He returns to Korea this month to again enthrall audiences, just over half a year after touring through Seoul and Busan with a three-piece band. With tracks straddling a scope of genres, including synthpop, shoegaze, psyche and ambient, Toro Y Moi possesses a diverse and refreshing mode of musical expression. His cutting-edge musical style is one that has regularly earned the appreciation of numerous music publishers; including Pitchfork, which highly praised his late-2011 EP, Freaking Out. Concertgoers will not be disappointed by Toro Y Moi is known for putting on fresh and fascinating on-stage performances, often accompanied by stunning visuals. This show is highly recommended for fans of Animal Collective, Washed Out, Neon Indian, Young Empires and Brothertiger.



VINYL WILLIAMS

Touring with Toro Y Moi is Hollywood's highly-acclaimed Lionel "Vinyl" Williams. Bridging art, science and magic, the prolific Williams explores an eclectic gamut of musical styles spanning from psyche to shoegaze to krautrock. The resulting groove is (supposedly) an attempt at achieving "sonic matrices"—a series of sounds and frequencies with properties that are therapeutic to the human body. Whether they are or not, Williams' online repository of tracks, clips and artwork bode for a promising and brilliant Korean tour. In addition to his musical exploits, Williams has garnered significant attention in some design circles for his trademark collage-style artwork, which is prominent on his album covers. Audience members should anticipate a psyched-out evening with this magician of Sunset Blvd. A must-see for fans of Caribou, Atlas Sound, Jonny Greenwood, Tycho and Japandroids.



SUPER SKETCH

Part concert, part art market and part kaleidoscope, Super Sketch is an interactive showcase of what happens when a dynamic team of international artists join forces and merge their creative energies under one roof. Attendees are invited in from the cold to catch several fantastic music acts which will be accompanied by a stunning array of analog produced real-time visuals and shadow manipulations, produced on old-school acetate and overhead projectors. This Super Sketch will feature a special collection of hologram art. Super Sketch attendees will also be able to browse a multitude of works by a host of locally-based artists. There has been a lot of talk surrounding the production of some mind-blowing holographic posters for this event, which is another cause for great anticipation.

1, 2

Toro y Moi and Vinyl Williams play in Seoul's v-hall Feb. 17.

3

Super Sketch: Seoul Edition takes place at Platoon Kunsthalle, on Feb. 25 at 8 p.m.

T I C K E T S

For tickets and more information about SCS, check out:
www.supercolorsuper.com

MYAGI

Photo by VitaminDevo
(vitamindevo.com)

This is a column dedicated to electronic music in Korea. Our aim is to give Groove Korea readers interviews and updates on what is happening on the peninsula. Feel free to contact the links below for information on clubs, DJs and events!

"It's important to spend a lot of time working on tunes, working on your skills, working on your sound, but you've gotta be fun. Party hard but always make your flight." -
M y a g i

INSIDE THE PERIMETER: Interview with Myagi

Myagi is one of the world's more accomplished party rockers, expertly blending a mix of party breaks, electro, techno and mash-up – then letting it loose on the dance floor. He is one of Canada's most recognized DJs, both at home and abroad. His music has garnered support from the likes of Fatboy Slim, Annie Nightingale, Utah Saints, Dub Pistols and Pete Tong.

It's in the studio, however, that Myagi has had his most important successes. Selling thousands upon thousands of units with almost 50 releases – both originals and remixes – published, in-

cluding his much-lauded artist album "3 Years Of Sunrise," which got a whopping 4.5/5 – and called a masterpiece to boot – in the scene-defining publication DJ Mag.

There are few in the industry that can rival Myagi's unique style behind the decks, as he is relentless about showcasing his signature blend of breaks. With another album set for release, Myagi firmly entrenches himself as one the industry's elite, both on and off the decks.

"I love it. I love the crowds, the culture, and most of all the food. I eat, and make, a lot of kimchi at home, but nothing is the same as the real thing on the ROK. The shows are great and a lot of fun. I don't want to take anything away from the club experiences."

What inspired you to become a DJ?

I never knew there was an option! Just kidding – I think it was just a desire to play music I love, and to have a good time and to get more people to have a good time with me. I tend to be just as happy playing for 10 people at some private after-party as I am for 5,000 at a festival – it's a great feeling to make things work together and to watch people feeding off of your energy.

What was your parent's reaction to your career choice?

I don't think they really got it at first, but they were always really supportive. I think they understood I wasn't totally mental when I was able to walk into 7-Eleven in my hometown and pick up a magazine that had a big photo of me in it ... It was validation for the beats that had been pumping out of my bedroom for years.

When did you start producing music? Why?

I started when I was a teenager, I can't really remember (exactly) ... I was in a band and decided I wanted to work on electronic music on my own, and so it just made sense. It was hard in those days. You couldn't really run a studio from a computer in the same way that you can today, so I had a lot of external gear and old analog equipment to buy. My first record came out in 2001 and since then it's been a constant output of music.

Do you feel that a DJ needs to produce music?

It depends on what they want to do – to play in local clubs, no. If they want to do any real touring or become known outside of their local scene, then absolutely, yes. Everyone's a producer nowadays though, so if it's something that you want to do I suggest being serious about it. This will entail more than just watching YouTube tutorials!

How has technology improved your sets?

Cool mixes and tricks are way easier to pull off now than they used to be – though I still love to watch a true turntablist. I think technology is at a good point now. For a while, every club had different systems, different mixers, etc. – it was hard to know what to expect when you walked in the door and that's one of the reasons I switched onto a laptop back in 2003.

What is a track you never get tired of playing?

A tune of mine called "Giorgio Maurader" ... it's like four years old or so, but it still just kills whenever I drop it. It layers up well with other stuff and just has huge builds that drive people nuts.

What is the general consensus about spinning in Korea?

I love it. I love the crowds, the culture, and most of all the food. I eat, and make, a lot of kimchi at home, but nothing is the same as the real thing on the ROK. The shows are great and a lot of fun. I don't want to take anything away from the club experiences I have, as Korea is world class that way, but it's the country that I really enjoy.

How do you motivate yourself before a set?

Dinner and drinks with friends, usually followed up by a few minutes alone. I like to make sure I know how the system sounds; I'll almost always go and find the sweet spot in the room before I play while someone else is on the decks. I'll try and hear whether it's a bass-y room or if there's a lot of bite in the high end, and I'll adjust my eq'ing accordingly.

What is the strangest thing you have witnessed behind the decks?

The last time I toured Korea my final show was an underground club in Busan. It was there I saw a drunken sailor get hit with a stun gun by a bouncer like 10 feet from me. It cleared the dance floor out and there was a big scene – I played a protest track by NWA and it brought people back on the floor with a smile. I found out later that he was Russian and could not speak English, but he should not have been slamming into the decks nor harassing the ladies, but think the bouncers were a little overzealous.

What can we expect from you in the future?

My new album Ape and Essence is about to come out, and it's getting really good reviews. It's my most dance-floor friendly long-player and has lots of vocals on it – mainly by me, but also some guests. It's actually coming out as a remixable edition for Sound-trends programs Meta.DJ and Looptastic for the iPad/iPhone/iPod. I'm doing a lot more synthesizer sound design for the U.K.-based company FXPansion, too. I'm really passionate about that and I love sound creation.

What advice do you have for aspiring DJs/producers?

Learn your trade but remember that going out and rocking a party is the biggest part of what you do. It's important to spend a lot of time working on tunes, working on your skills, working on your sound, but you've gotta be fun. Party hard but always make your flight. Write music for yourself and hope it works for the dance floor; if you're in this for the right reasons, it often will.



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FIX
DAYLOUNGE & ELECTRONIC CLUB

Calendar:
March 2012

March 2	Lee Mortimer
March 3	Neon Stereo
March 9	Myagi
March 16	Da Fresh
March 17	The Hump Day Project
March 23	Mystique
March 24	Men in Masks
March 31	Mike Hulme



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CD Reviews

Magna Fall's The Japan EP a fresco of rock music

By: Conor O'Reilly



Magna Fall, The Japan EP

The key ingredient in this very fine piece of work is a traditional approach to rock music. Each musician's contribution is equal throughout the finished product.

Magna Fall's The Japan EP is a defiant rocked-up funky mix, layered with so much of every kind of influence that it's like a big fresco of rock music. There's not much waiting around for these seven tracks to kick in after the synth-guitar-haegum intro spreads a false sense of calm. "Warp Five Boogie" opens steadily and then establishes a self-assured sound for the remainder of this hard paced and diverse first EP from the Bucheon-based three piece.

Jumping between heavy metal energy driven tracks like "Sand Shadow" or the punky "Love to Hate," each song changes the mood notably with the get-up-and-dance vibes of "Gear Boy," the EP's third track.

"Gear Boy" is perhaps the stand out tune of the album. Stepping up from the rockier tracks, which are earlier on in the EP, it shows a more definite understanding of what is needed for an individual sound. Throughout, this tune rises and falls like a disco record played at high speed.

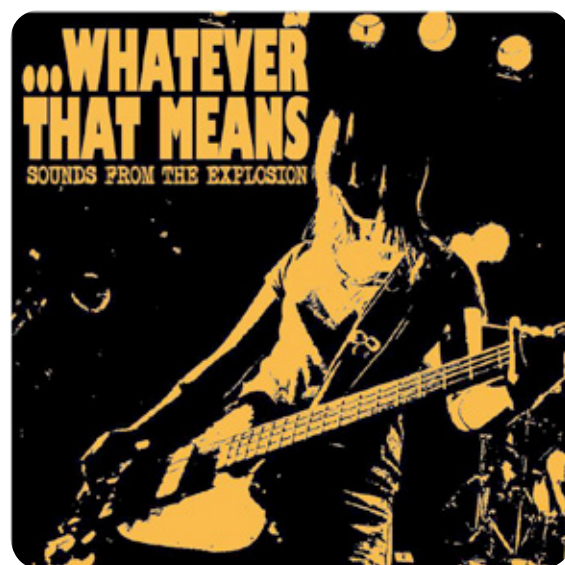
On the fifth track, "Another's Hands," the electronic-but-grungy no-nonsense guitar pumping is another song surer of its genre.

"Phantasmagoria" begins like "Gear Boy" with a very upbeat and dance-friendly rhythm. This is the first song in which Neil Smith's synthesizer dominates as it plays havoc in between Kevin Heintz's guitar work. The wail of pitches and keens from the synthesizer mixes with Heintz's guitar into an entrancing wall of sound that really takes you away.

The key ingredient in this very fine piece of work is a traditional approach to rock music. Each musician's contribution is equal throughout the finished product. Whether it's metronome – like David Holden on drums, Neil Smith jumping between bass and synthesizer, or Kevin Heintz delivering aggressive and unprocessed riffs on guitar, Magna Fall is an infectious and unpretentious sound.

Sounds From The Explosion comes at you hard and fast

By: Conor O'Reilly



...Whatever That Means, Sounds From The Explosion

Sounds From The Explosion is the product of all this hard work and can be felt in the tenacity and vitality that the tracks present. This album is very tightly put together and doesn't let its foot off the gas for the entire duration.

Sounds From The Explosion is ...Whatever That Means' first full-length album. The 13 high-quality, fast-moving tracks were recorded in Seoul during a six-month period through June of 2011.

The band, which came together during the wedding party for guitarist Jeff Moses and Trash, the group's bassist, have gigged regularly since 2010 and the product of all this hard work can be felt in the tenacity and vitality that the tracks present. This album is very tightly put together and doesn't let its foot off the gas for the entire duration.

This punk album has a very west coast sound. Each song comes at you hard and fast and doesn't allow for any messing around. Everything is complimentary and there is a real unity and balance in every aspect of the sound.

Throughout the album, the lyrics come at you telling little stories. There is no overall moral to the album, just very real sounding stories, like Andy and Shannon in "No Sense." These songs are about things that happen, whether those things are right or wrong.

Despite some echoes of regret, there's no sitting around weeping; there's just the story telling. As soon as a story is over the track changes and it's another story altogether, and that's what makes these songs.

The longest track is the last, which comes in at a second under 3 minutes.

This belt full of classic 3-minute punk tracks sings about a string of messed up situations, from growing up, family, first dates and love songs. But don't expect this to sound like a plethora of ballads. Did I mention that this is punk? Don't expect too much romance.



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MUST READ

THE SEOUL METRO PROJECT

By: Aaron Raisley

Shooting every station in Seoul's subway system

The Task: Take one photo at each station in the Seoul subway system.

- The Mission: Communicate foreigners' experiences on the subway.
- The Result: Hundreds of collective kilometers traveled, red tape, strange looks, angry ajossis, a notoriously transient bunch of expats on the job, and an enormous collaborative creation to top it all off.
- The total length is in excess of 700 kilometers and includes more than 400 stations, all of which have a total annual ridership somewhere north of 2.2 billion. No small project here.

Photo by

SAM
WIGGINTON



ARTS & CULTURE
THE SEOUL METRO PROJECT

SEOUL METRO PROJECT



Lee Smathers, SPC member:

"I was enthusiastic about starting photography for this project and as soon as I got to the third station they rounded up their forces and took me in their office. I pretended to not speak Korean then they called a PR lady who spoke perfect English telling me for security reasons I couldn't take photographs in the subway without their permission."



ARTS & CULTURE
THE SEOUL METRO PROJECT

Photo by

AARON
BROWN



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www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/321091.

The concept was born in the mind of Flash Parker, the prolific Groove Korea contributor, then-Osan resident and Seoul Photo Club dynamo. Way back in the spring of 2009, Parker was riding Line 1 and contemplating the challenges of being a foreigner on the subway.

"I was lost coming home from Seoul trying to figure out where to get off – unable to read the signs in English – and was hit by an idea that this must be what everyone experiences when they arrive in Korea and jump on the subway," said Parker, the project editor. "People selling rabbits out of cardboard boxes, men eating steaming soup while riding home after work, people drinking soju en route to a bar or restaurant ... all very foreign and affected the way I looked at the country."

That Flash couldn't read – or at least make sense of – the signage in English might strike some as strange. But this is an experience I think we can all relate to. The first few times we experience the Seoul subway system, we can certainly read the information provided, but it doesn't seem to make any sense. And it's not because of incomprehensible sentence structure, but more due to the hundreds of people jostling and barging by as we try to maintain position, squinting and scratching our heads while examining station diagrams or trying to figure out which train to board.

Photo by

BRIAN
KEATHLEY



ARTS & CULTURE
THE SEOUL METRO PROJECT



ARTS & CULTURE
THE SEOUL METRO PROJECT

"I was lost coming home from Seoul trying to figure out where to get off — unable to read the signs in English — and was hit by an idea that this must be what everyone experiences when they arrive in Korea and jump on the subway."



Add to this all the colorful characters and the seemingly free-for-all behavior, and the subway can quickly become sensory overload.

Reflecting on this experience and trying to provide some kind of structural framework and direction for the undertaking, Parker decided upon the theme of "difference." A term coined by French philosopher and author Jacques Derrida, difference seems to have a rather complex and nebulous definition. The meaning appears to be an idea, thing or experience both differing from, and deferring to something simultaneously – a concept that seemed to resonate with him regarding the actuality of the subway.

After discussion with other Seoul Photo Club members, the project was finalized: One photograph would be presented from every station in the Seoul subway system. It was then imagined to be an exhibition, or maybe even a book.

But it was not at all as simple as it at first appeared. What kind of undertaking had the Seoul Photo Club unwittingly embarked upon?

The Seoul Metropolitan Subway is huge, one of the world's biggest. Like Seoul itself though, its size depends upon how you actually define it. The SPC decided that if a station was on the current subway map, it was part of the project. This approach had the effect of in fact widening the scope beyond what is generally considered the metro system to include lines such as AREX and the far-flung extremities of Line 1.

This is your community. Contact us if you have an exhibition or story: Submissions@groovekorea.com

YOUR CALL

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Photo by

DYLAN GOLDBY

Indeed, the project did turn out to be challenging in many, many ways. Chief among these were issues related to access, time, expense and towards the end, tying all the loose ends together.

Initially, everyone involved in the project assumed that as the subway was an open and public space, photography would naturally be permitted. This wasn't the case, leading to many awkward encounters with subway personnel.

One example took place on Line 9. "I was enthusiastic about starting photography for this project and as soon as I got to the third station, they rounded up their forces and took me in their office," said Lee Smathers, an SPC member. "I pretended to not speak Korean, then they called a PR lady who spoke perfect English, telling me for security reasons I couldn't take photographs in the subway without their permission."

This was a typical experience and the photographer subsequently left the project. In fact, to photograph on Line 9 a written request stating the purpose and exact time the photographs would be taken is required.

Similar incidents led to repeated attempts to secure official sanction for the club to photograph in the stations. This turned out to be a largely fruitless pursuit, as most people who have tried dealing with any municipal bureaucracy will appreciate. As a result, the project at times turned into a kind of underground guerilla warfare, involving hit-and-run tactics and



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Photo by

JESSE LORD



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surreptitious shooting. It wasn't all so, and though almost everyone involved had to make escapes from subway platforms or offices at some point, there were some positive experiences.

"The stationmaster approached me as I was shooting in his station," said Dylan Goldby, a photographer on Line 5. "He asked me what I was doing and I told him I was working on a project documenting the subway line on which I live. Everything was friendly until he told me I needed permission to photograph here. When I asked why, he said it was to stop North Korean spies photographing the subway system for intelligence purposes. I showed him my photos, which to my surprise got him excited. He stopped asking me to leave, gave me his e-mail address, and asked for copies of the photos." To the great appreciation of the SPC, the Seoul Metro company who run the inner-city sections of lines 1, 2, 3 and 4, did eventually provide the club with an official pass to be shown to station staff prior to taking any photos. But even the possession of a permit from Seoul Metro didn't prevent things from going slightly awry.

Sam Wigginton, a photographer on Line 2, was at Gangnam station with his tripod set up away from the bustling crowds when an ajossi in uniform approached him. "What are you doing here," he asked Wigginton. "I tell him I'm taking photos for the Seoul Metro Project and show him my signed permission letter from the subway authority.

Photo by

PHILIP
VAN ORDEN



ARTS & CULTURE
THE SEOUL METRO PROJECT



ARTS & CULTURE
THE SEOUL METRO PROJECT

Indeed, the project did turn out to be challenging in many, many ways. Chief among these were issues related to access, time, expense and towards the end, tying all the loose ends together.

SEOUL METRO PROJECT



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He casts a suspicious eye over the paper. 'Come with me,' he says sternly. Resigned to my inevitable interrogation, I gather all my gear and obediently follow, weaving awkwardly through throngs of people. We stop abruptly right in the middle of the busiest section of the station. 'Put your tripod here,' he commands, suddenly beaming. 'THIS is the best spot for taking photos of Gangnam station.'

Two largely unforeseen issues of time and expense soon became apparent to the project contributors. The typical modus operandi for a series of stops in the project was to get off at a station and wander around, scouting for points of interest, compositions, light, vantage points and other photographic considerations. Members would often pass in and out of the turnstile in pursuit of the shot they were after. Many set up shop with a tripod and a cup of coffee, waiting for the right moment. Once several potential images were captured, it was on to the next station.

Most photographers were covering at least 15 or 20 stations, some twice that or more. Factor in travel time between stations, transiting home and back again and the expense in man-hours and money turns out to be very significant indeed, especially as this was in most cases done piecemeal at odd times.

In addition, many stations needed to be re-shot, as images weren't quite up to standard or fresh ideas presented themselves.

Photo by

PHILIP VAN ORDEN

Despite the obvious frustrations and inconveniences that this project at times presented to the participating members of the Seoul Photo Club, the fruit of all this effort is very impressive. Which brings us to the last major challenge that fell mainly on the shoulders of project editor Flash Parker: seeing the project through and bringing it all together into a beautifully presented book worthy of any coffee table.

"It was tough keeping people motivated when other responsibilities like work, school and family were also in the picture," said Parker. "Some would go out and shoot five or six stations and report back that they were well on their way to completion, but then I'd never hear from them again. That was frustrating.

"We had half a dozen members begin and not finish one particular section, and they had to be replaced by photographers with similar outside commitments, but now working on a tighter schedule. However, I never questioned the dedication of the people who came on board at the beginning and stayed through to the end; they saw the potential in this project and without them it would have never come together."

Among the members of the SPC, The Seoul Metro Project would come to mean many different things. And in the book – it's large, 8 x 11 inches with over 200 pages of stunning images – the SPC has taken a fresh look on something so ubiquitous, familiar and yet almost un-noticed in the



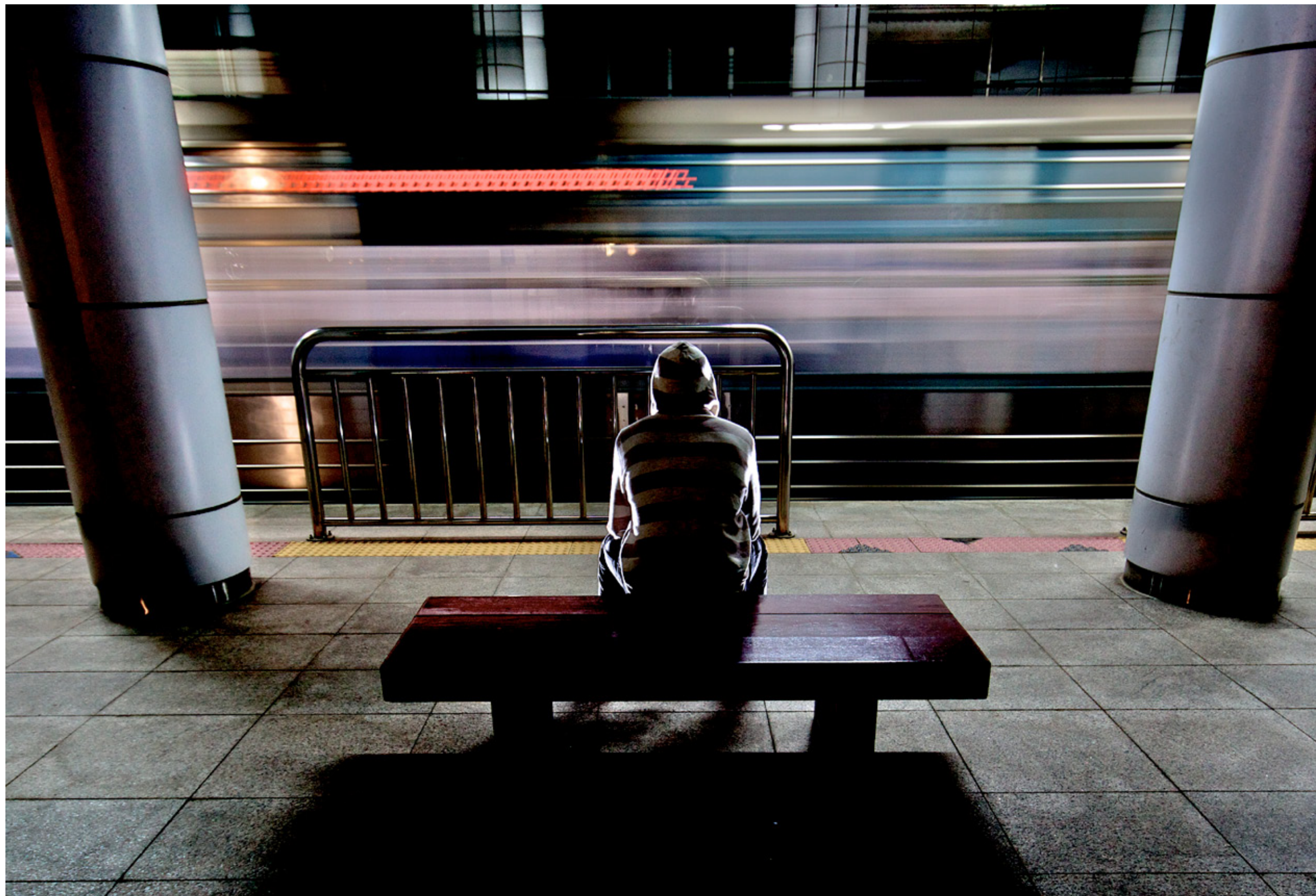
A R T S & C U L T U R E
THE SEOUL METRO PROJECT

"I'm at Gangnam station with my tripod set up away from the bustling crowds when an ajoshi in uniform approaches. 'What are you doing here,' he asks. I tell him I'm taking photos for the Seoul Metro Project and show him my signed permission letter from the subway authority. He casts a suspicious eye over the paper. 'Come with me' he says sternly. Resigned to my inevitable interrogation, I gather all my gear and obediently

follow, weaving awkwardly through throngs of people. We stop abruptly right in the middle of the busiest section of the station. 'Put your tripod here,' he commands, suddenly beaming. 'THIS is the best spot for taking photos of Gangnam station.'" — Sam Wigginton, photographer on Line 2.



A R T S & C U L T U R E
THE SEOUL METRO PROJECT



day-to-day life of most commuters and travelers.

The theme of *différance* when applied in practice to The Seoul Metro Project, came to represent what the individual photographers involved took from their subway experience. Each photographer catalogued in pictures their personal reaction to the process of traversing and absorbing each stop along their particular route in the system.

Coupled with a short essay from each photographer, each set of images conveys a unique commentary that will demand from you a fresh look at the beauty and mystique that is The Seoul Metro.



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ARTIST JIMMYSK CONNECTS PAST & PRESENT

by DANIEL JOSEPH VORDERSTRASSE



"I draw and paint from the heart and work with enjoyment to make art fun for everyone involved. There is no target audience or secret message. I want to make art accessible to everyone and not alienate anyone who doesn't understand art, but let everyone enjoy the works." JimmySK - Artist

INFO

For more information on the artist, visit the website <http://jimmysk83.wordpress.com>.

Korea's rich history contains abundant tales of anthropomorphic characters teaching simple lessons, but as globalization and technology creep into everything we do and everywhere we go, these accounts and their influence are losing their place in society. Now a Seoul-based foreign artist is taking up the cause – retelling these sagas with his own modern twist.

JimmySK, his moniker, began his artistic pursuits as a stencil street artist outside London. Over time he expanded his abilities, incorporating screen printing and mixed media on canvases.

Always a leisure activity in the past, other commitments prevented him from exclusively focusing on artistic interests. "I came to Korea to see the world and have an opportunity to balance my working life while doing art. The country is constantly developing and exciting opportunities to expose artwork are present," explained the artist.

A fascination with Korean folk tales developed after four years in the country. "Their rich heritage and wonderful stories gained my interest, but they seem to be lost on current society as an influence," he said.

JimmySK wants to "have fun with my art and make images I hope people will enjoy and find amusing. The imagery of my work derives from Korean folk tales. The characters I choose are then given a modern twist. Overall my aim is to make art that can be enjoyed by both Koreans and expats."

While some contemporary art entails discovering underlying themes through representative art, his work does not. "I draw and paint from the heart and work with enjoyment to make art fun for everyone involved. There is no target audience or secret message. I want to make art accessible to everyone and not alienate anyone who doesn't understand art, but let everyone enjoy the works."

While always considering himself an artist, he said that he actually prefers to maintain a day job exclusive of his passion. "I need something to compliment my art to keep things interesting and fresh. And to keep myself motivated," he said. In the process, he has found his forte, producing mural art for Vatos Restaurant in Itaewon, and is working on creating an art company.

JimmySK is not only the artist's moniker, but a collaborated effort between himself and Katie Stefani. She handles the marketing and day-to-day business end of his art.

Their main project is the "jimmySK studio," which is intended to feature works by jimmySK and other expat artists.



After monthly participations in Apgujeong's Platoon Market, they realized that there was a lack of interaction between observers and performers. "People are more likely to understand art if they can actively take part in the process. People can visit the studio to see new art, T-shirts and other items for sale, but will be able to print their own T-shirts and get involved in an artistic interaction between artists

and viewers," explained Stefani.

After hosting a successful opening in late January, the new studio will be featuring another open house in March, giving patrons the opportunity to interact with the artist and view his works. Check his website for an exact date as the weekend is yet to be determined. An appointment can be made with the artist to schedule a private viewing.



DIRECTIONS

To reach jimmySK's studio, take exit 2 from Noksapyeong Station on Line 6 and walk towards Haebangchon. Follow the kimchi pots along HBC's main drag and proceed to the end of the street. Veer left near the IBK Bank and the studio is on the left.

► Feb. 16 Opening nationwide in Korean theaters.

"Martin Scorsese, supreme poet of middle-aged male rage, has produced a brilliant kids film – with a slightly mournful tone."

HUGO (2011)

Directed by: Martin Scorsese

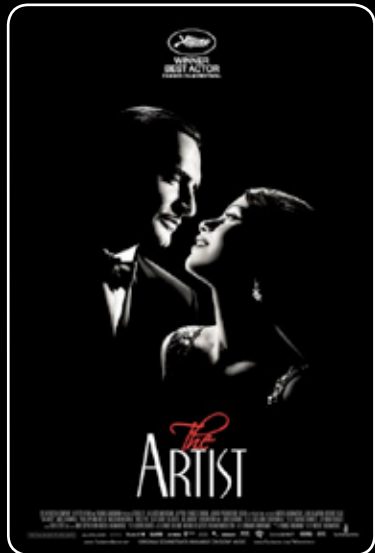


► Feb. 16 Opening nationwide in Korean theaters.

"This witty and moving homage to the silent movie era is one of the most purely enjoyable movies in years."

THE ARTIST (2011)

Directed by: Michel Hazanavicius



At the Box Office

by DEAN CRAWFORD

P R E V I E W

Along with Wes Anderson and Quentin Tarantino, Martin Scorsese is one of the few directors whose work I would go to any length to see. Though this doesn't say much, as the Oscar-winning director of The Departed is responsible for some of the greatest films of all time in Taxi Driver, Raging Bull and Goodfellas. But when I started to do a little research on his latest film, Hugo, I became slightly confused and wondered if I was really passionate enough to see his latest outing.

You see Hugo, based on Brian Selznick's book The Invention of Hugo Cabret, is actually a children's movie. Not even in a "we'll throw in a few jokes for adults, wink wink" kind of way. This really is a film for the whole family. Hugo follows a young orphan who, after the death of his father, is forced to live alone in the walls of a Parisian train station tending to the giant clocks. The only thing he has left in his life is a mystery surrounding an odd automaton his father left behind. Hugo features a stellar cast in Ben Kingsley, Ray Winstone, Jude Law, Sacha Baron Cohen, Kick-Ass' Chloë Grace Moretz and Asa Butterfield as Hugo.

Surprisingly enough, despite being a children's film, this tale of an unlikely friendship that revels in the birth of cinema may well be Martin Scorsese's most personal film to date. Hailing from Queens, New York, and raised a devout Catholic, violence and religion are usually prevalent in all of his films. Suffering from asthma as a child and not being able to partake in sports, the cinema became his passion. As you watch Hugo's fascination with the moving image, you could well be looking at an incarnation of Martin Scorsese himself. Not to mention the defining factor in him choosing to make Hugo, was the fact that he wanted to make a movie that his 12-year-old daughter could actually see. So this film may not be a Casino or Mean Streets, but that's not to say it's any less personal to the great man himself, and this certainly shows on screen.

Hugo presents us with a magical world, and I never thought I would say this, but I urge you to go see the film in 3D. Unlike Clash of the Titans or Green Lantern, the 3D gives the film a real vibrancy and you constantly want to look at every part of the screen to soak in every image. This 1930s Paris is full of wondrous gadgets and giant contraptions, the production design and cinematography really are a sight to behold. I went into the film with one set of expectations, namely that I couldn't see how Martin Scorsese could pull off a children's film, but in much the same way as I felt when I finished watching Jean-Pierre Jeunet's excellent Amélie, I didn't want the film to end. I left the cinema invigorated and felt that everything was OK in the world. No matter how old or young you are, it will be an enjoyable watch.

Hugo will hit Korean screens on Feb. 16.

P R E V I E W

The year 1927 was a monumental one in the history of cinema as one film changed the shape of movies for years to come. That movie was Alan Crosland's The Jazz Singer. You see up until this point, feature films were silent with dialogue transmitted through title cards and overdramatized actions. The soundtrack came from musicians in the theater with pianists or full blown orchestras. But when people saw Al Jolson performing in the Jazz Singer, they were blown away. This was followed by the mass production of other "talkies," which meant that the decline of the silent film era had set in and the genre was banished to film history text books. So it comes as a huge surprise that in the midst of the IMAX and 3D revolution, one of the most talked about films in recent times is Michel Hazanavicius' The Artist.

You see, the film is set in Hollywood during the 1920s and is the story of a silent film artist coping with the invention of the talkie. Yet the film itself is also silent and shot in black and white. That's right, a silent film about a silent film artist. French leading man Jean Dujardin plays George, a famous silent movie actor whose career is on the downturn, and Bérénice Bejo is his love interest, Peppy, a performer whose own career is flourishing.

Having been nominated for Best Film at most major film festivals around the world, including Cannes and the London Film Festival, and had praise lavished upon it for the amazing ensemble performance from the cast, which includes John Goodman, Malcolm McDowell and in particular Uggie the dog, The Artist has been described as a "funny, clever, sweet-natured romance." And in much the same way as Martin Scorsese's Hugo, it was an homage to the birth of cinema. The Artist is clearly a postmodern tribute to Hollywood's silent era and is the Motion Picture Academy's dream. A film romanticizing Hollywood and the love people have for the movies surely has Oscar gold written all over it.

The Artist is also out on Feb. 16, and while I can't wait to catch the film to see if I can indeed get to grips with the concept of watching a contemporary silent movie, every corner of the Internet is claiming that The Artist is a modern classic; it's funny, charming and beautifully shot. What at first might sound like a post-modern experiment is simply a feel good film about one man's journey that can speak to us all. Silently of course.

The Artist will hit Korean screens on Feb. 16.



Korean DVD Corner

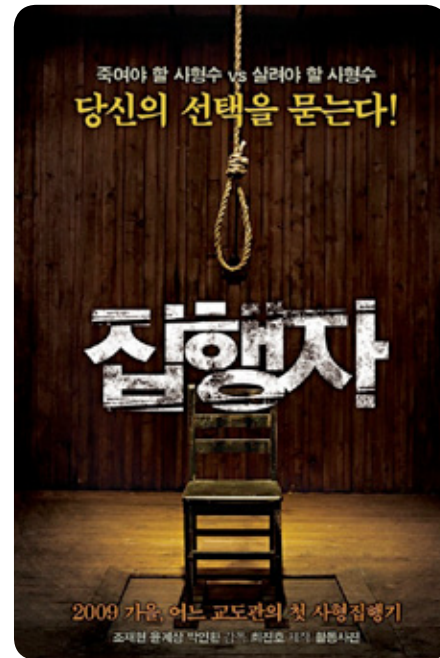
by DANIEL JOSEPH VORDERSTRASSE

R E V I E W

► PG-18 Drama 96 Minutes

THE EXECUTIONER (2009)

Directed by: Choi Jin-Ho



► PG-18 Drama 111 Minutes

PAJU (2009)

Directed by: Park Chan-ok



Is it acceptable under any circumstances to kill another human being? The mention of capital punishment certainly provokes heated debate among advocates and opponents. Currently abolished in practice, Korea has not carried out an execution since 1997, although death sentences have been handed down in the interim. Debuting at the 14th Pusan International Film Festival in 2009, this film imagines the punishment as if it was an active policy.

Oh Jae-kyung (Yoon Kye-sang) begins his career as a correctional officer under the tutelage of Bae Jong-ho (Jo Jae-hyeon). Jae-kyung is innocent, naïve, hesitant on the job and unwilling to bend the rules. On the contrary, Jong-ho is a gloomy veteran, extracting his own dark and cynical brand of justice, whilst playing by his own rules. Seeing himself as a mentor, Jong-ho seeks to influence Jae-kyung to become ruthless and dominant over the prison population.

Korea is turned upside down by psychotic mastermind Chang Yong-du as he murders and mutilates people at will. After his capture and conviction, he is sentenced to death. Twelve years had passed since the last execution and Kim Chul-gu (Park In-hwan) is the sole remaining officer from that execution. As reality sets in, officers and inmates, for better or worse, explain their reasons and beliefs as the struggle to balance public and private life are exposed between the characters.

Powerful filmmaking is at the forefront as all ethical viewpoints are presented to the audience. Is it the killing of another human being or is it simply enforcing the law? The actors brilliantly present all sides about the humanity, or lack of, the death penalty from a citizen's, officer's and inmate's perspective.

Everybody has an opinion about death and the rationale for taking a life. Whatever viewpoint one supports, the audience is in for a dramatic presentation as an emotional heartbreaker convenes over the finale and, upon conclusion, proposes thought about the issue and its consequences.

R E V I E W

Fleeing criminal prosecution, activist Joong-shik (Lee Sun-kyun) takes refuge north of Seoul's buzzing metropolis in Paju's quaint countryside community, where he works for a ministry following an accident with his former girlfriend. After one year, he's off the Most Wanted list and asked to take control of a church's activities.

Joong-shik marries Choi Eun-soo (Shim E-young), a parishioner. Her younger sister, Eun-mo, (Seo Woo) flees Korea with her tuition money for unexplained reasons. Returning three years later, she inherits a \$100,000 insurance policy after her sister's death, but it is revealed that the policy was changed postmortem.

Joong-shik plays a humanitarian and spiritual leader battling developers to prevent the bulldozing of local apartments, but force and violence escalate between residents and prospectors. Seeing Eun-mo as a potential leverage in negotiations, the developers approach her with a proposition to end the quarrel as she investigates the death of her sister due to questionable circumstances.

Director Park Chan-ok presents a dramatic display of intrigue and mystery from beginning to end. Numerous storylines are intertwined in the film, creating a web of questions and inquiries for the audience. The non-linear portrayal of the narrative demands 100 percent attention and concentration to understand unfolding events. Combined with a captivating plot, the film is aided by tremendous acting by Lee Sun-kyun and especially Seo Woo. In tandem, the two put on a theatrical masterpiece presenting Joong-shik and Seo Woo's tragic narrative.

A non-linear script always creates unanswered questions for the viewer. The multiple predicaments leave the story's flow periodically jagged and sometimes frustrating for the viewer to grasp, but questions are ultimately answered in future segments. The story does not contain thrilling cliffhangers, but is a running narrative of an epic love struggle between the two main characters. If complete attention can be directed at the screen, combined with a little patience, the viewer is certainly treated to a motion picture with substance and character, which are all but lacking from the majority of films produced these days.

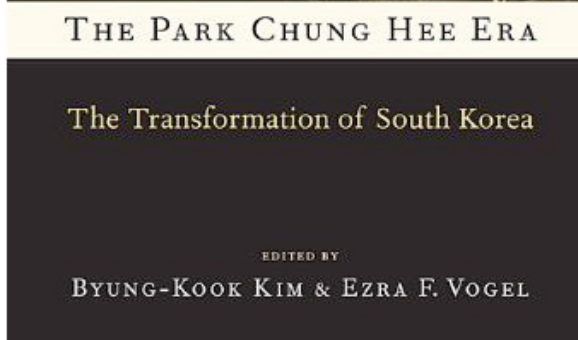


PARK CHUNG HEE

GIVE THE DICTATOR SOME CREDIT

| by TODD SHARP

There are 21 contributions to this volume, divided into the analyses of the May 16, 1961 coup that brought Park into power, his method of governance domestically, economy and society, international relations, and how Park's transformational dictatorship compares to others in the 20th century.



The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea
744 pp
Harvard University Press

Any foreigner who supports the notion of liberal democracy but has found a good living in Korea ought to regard former President Park Chung Hee with ambivalence. There's no doubt that his tactics, involving the rigging of elections, the violent suppression of dissent and the arrests of opposition leaders, are incompatible with the societies we come from and the places we would want to live in. On the other hand, one also must consider Korea's status at the start of Park's rule in the early 60's and its massive growth by the time of his assassination in 1979. Let us be blunt: Without the growth Park achieved, most of us would not be here working and starting families.

"The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea," a collection edited by scholars Ezra Vogel and Byung-Kook Kim, examines Park's tenure from a variety of perspectives and asks a lot of the necessary questions about the way he ruled. Not counting its conclusion and introduction, there are 21 contributions to this volume, divided into analyses of the May 16, 1961 coup that brought Park into power, his method of governance domestically, the economy and society, international relations, and how Park's transformational dictatorship compares to others in the 20th century.

That the book weighs in at more than 600 pages and is written by academics will discourage many readers from picking it up, but those who do will learn much about how current Korean society formed. For example, we know today that Korea is a Confucian society, but Park originally opposed Confucianism before concluding that teaching it in the education system would be an effective way of indoctrinating support for the nation's leadership. Many of us also know that POSCO is a steel-making giant that drove Korea's growth in the late 60's and 70's, but not that the impetus for it grew out of both Park's admiration for Japan's Meiji Restoration and his hunger to surpass Korea's former masters.

We also know that he cracked down ferociously on the opposition, but the book shows how his overzealous response to opposition leaders Kim Dae-jung and Kim Young-sam may have actually strengthened their positions, eventually propelling both to the presidency.

The final section of the book, in which Park is compared to other dictators, is its most interesting section. Vogel weighs in, comparing Park to Turkey's Ataturk, Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew and China's Deng Xiaoping, all of them strongmen who made their nations stronger. Vogel explains that Park, who had not led the country to victory in wartime (like Ataturk), had not been a prominent government figure beforehand (like Deng), and had not been democratically elected (like Lee), could not claim their legitimacy, thus prompting him to crack down even harder on opponents. A more favorable comparison takes place in the next contribution, when Paul D. Hutchcroft contrasts Park to Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines. Both reigned at about the same time and enjoyed U.S. backing, but while Park sought to build a wealthy nation with a strong military, Marcos was concerned with little aside from enriching himself.

Now that this book has made these contributions to the study of modern Korea, more examination on the after-effects of developmental dictatorships would be appreciated. For example, in Korea, Turkey and Chile we have seen how these regimes eventually give way to more republican governments once a more empowered citizenry demands it.

But how thoroughly does the residue of dictatorship, such as Korea's National Security Law, remain grafted to the newly modernized democracy? And how would these dictatorships have fared had they chosen less authoritative methods of development, like John James Cowperthwaite's "positive non-interventionism" in Hong Kong, or da Silva's simultaneous pursuit of foreign investment and a social safety net in Brazil?

Hopefully these questions will be met with a response of the quality of "The Park Chung Hee Era" in the near future.



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add your exhibit!

20 Expat
EXHIBITS
for February

1

Artist Name:
Various
Exhibition name:
Night Flea Market Vol. 28
Running Dates:
February 4, 6 p.m.
Location:
Platoon Kunsthal (Apgujeong station, line 3 exit 3)
Medium:
Various

2

Artist Name:
Zadok Ben-David
Exhibition name:
Blackfield
Running Dates:
Through February 10
Location:
Artclub1563 (Seocho station, line 2 exit 2; walk straight turn at Honda store)
Medium:
Installation

3

Artist Name:
Gunther von Hagen
Exhibition name:
Body WorldsRecord of Art
Running Dates:
thru March 8
Location:
The War Memorial of Korea, (Samgakji station, exit 12)
Medium:
Anatomical

4

Artist Name:
Mindy Lu
Exhibition name:
Mindy Lu Exhibition
Running Dates:
Through February 14
Location:
Jay Gallery, Insadong (Anguk station, line 3, exit 5; located in SK Hub Plaza, B1)
Medium:
Media art, video art, embroidery, audio

5

Artist Name:
Mina Cheon
Exhibition name:
Polipop, Political Pop Art
Running Dates:
January 13 – March 11
Location:
Sungkok Art Museum, Jongno-gu, Seoul (Gwanghwamun station (line 5, exit 7)
Medium:
Media, video, installation, performance

6

Artist Name:
10 abstract artists
Exhibition name:
10 Perspectives
Running Dates:
Through February 19
Location:
Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA) (City Hall station, line 1/2 exit 1)
Medium:
Paintings

7

Artist Name:
Maik Wolf
Exhibition name:
EX TERRITORY II
Running Dates:
Through February 19
Location:
Michael Schultz Gallery (Cheongdam station, line 7 exit 9)
Medium:
Paintings

8

Artist Name:
Korean/Chinese calligraphers
Exhibition name:
1300th Anniversary of Saeng Kim's Birth
Running Dates:
December 24 – March 4
Location:
Seoul Calligraphy Art Museum, Seoul Arts Center, Seocho-gu
Medium:
Calligraphy

9

Artist Name:
Yann Arthus Bertrand
Exhibition name:
It's My Home
Running Dates:
December 15 – March 15
Location:
Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA) , Jongno-gu, Seoul (City Hall Station, exit 1
Medium:
Media art, photography, video images

10

Artist Name:
Zadok Ben-David
Exhibition name:
Blackfield
Running Dates:
December 2 – February 10
Location:
Artclub1563, Seocho-gu, Seoul (Seocho Station (line 2, exit 2)
Medium:
Installation

11

Artist Name:
11 artists
Exhibition name:
Aha! Moment
Running Dates:
January 1 – February 15
Location:
Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul Arts Center, Seocho-gu, Seoul
Medium:
Painting, photo, sculpture, installation

12

Artist Name:
Jose Antonio Nigro, John Breitfuss, Martyn Thompson, Soo Gu-hee
Exhibition name:
Homo-sapiens
Running Dates:
January 27 – February 15
Location:
Gallery Golmok, Yongsan-gu
Medium:
Photos, sculpture, installation, paintings

13

Artist Name:
Various
Exhibition name:
Where's My Friends' Home?
Running Dates:
November 26 – February 19
Location:
Nam Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul Museum of Art, Sadang Station, exit 1
Medium:
Western/Korean paintings, photos

14

Artist Name:
Contemporary Korean artists
Exhibition name:
Kumho Young Artists
Running Dates:
Through February 15
Location:
Kumho Art Museum (Anguk station, line 3 exit 1)
Medium:
Paintings, installation, photography

15

Artist Name:
David LaChapelle
Exhibition name:
David LaChapelle in Seoul
Running Dates:
Through February 26
Location:
Hangaram Design Museum, Seoul Arts Center (Nambu Bus Terminal station)
Medium:
Photography

16

Artist Name:
Various
Exhibition name:
Gold Treasures of Ukraine
Running Dates:
Through February 26
Location:
Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul Arts Center (Nambu Bus Terminal station)
Medium:
Fine art, performance

17

Artist Name:
Lee Sang Won, Park Jihye, Michael Miller
Exhibition name:
Trace of Human Nature
Running Dates:
Through March 2
Location:
Gallery Sun Contemporary (Anguk station, line 3 exit 1)
Medium:
Paintings

18

Artist Name:
Magnum Photo Exhibition
Exhibition name:
Companions for the Globe
Running Dates:
Through March 4
Location:
Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul Arts Center
Medium:
Photography, films

19

Artist Name:
Various
Exhibition name:
Australian and Korean art 1976-2011
Running Dates:
November 10 – February 19
Location:
National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea, Gwacheon-si (Seoul Grand Park)
Medium:
Various

20

Artist Name:
Karl Lagerfeld
Exhibition name:
Work in Progress
Running Dates:
October 13 – March 18
Location:
Daelim Contemporary Art Museum, Jongno-gu, (Gyeongbokgung Station)
Medium:
Photography

THE KOREAN CURRY QUEST

MAKE A HOT DATE EVEN HOTTER
THREE PLACES TO GET YOUR INDO-FIX

By: Josh Foreman



CURRY QUEST

Three places to get your indo-fix.

By: Josh Foreman

EVEREST: Dongdaemun

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Everest
Dongdaemun
Tel: (02) 766-8850

Directions: Walk straight out of Dongdaemun Station, exit 3. Turn left at the pharmacy, into an alley. Turn right at the first alley after that. Everest is on the second floor of the building straight ahead.

Everest has long been my favorite Indian restaurant in the city, and most expats who've been here for any length of time have ventured to Dongdaemun for the experience. Everest has many things going for it: cheap and delicious food, cheap and abundant beer, unique décor, and Bollywood on loop.

Anyone who has been to Everest will remember its mint-green walls and copious Nepali-themed decorations. The restaurant is a museum of Nepali culture. The walls are covered with panoramic photos of the Himalayas, a huge mural of rural Nepal, Tibetan prayer flags, dolls, statues, prayer wheels and thangka paintings. The smell of incense is thick. The restaurant is (thankfully) laid out in a way that no matter where you are, you can get a view of the big-screen TV playing Bollywood movies. The music and dancing complete the illusion; you might as well be chowing down in a tourist restaurant in Pokhara. The Guru family of Nepal has owned and operated the restaurant since 2002, and their patriotism is evident.

Everest's prices are slightly lower than most other Indian restaurants in town, and the quality of their food is higher. For this article, I had pakoras, mutton vindaloo, plain naan, and a banana lassi. I know that the mutton vindaloo at Everest is punishingly spicy, but I couldn't resist ordering it. The lassi came first, and I saved it for the mutton. The pakoras came out fried crunchy and brown. Mmm... deep-fried onion patties. (On a side note, the samosas at Everest are excellent. They're the biggest I've run across in Seoul, and come with two spicy sauces.). Finally the mutton vindaloo arrived with a giant teardrop-shaped piece of naan. The vindaloo was a deep red color and had little pieces of raw green chili sprinkled on top (garnish or warning sign?).

I dug into it with a piece of the naan. It was thick; I fished out a chunk of potato and took a bite.

The spiciness was cumulative. By the third bite I was sweating and my nose was running. My lassi disappeared. The mutton was chewy and had a strong taste. The curry was tomatoey and pungent and delicious. By the end I thought anaphylactic shock was a real risk. I finished it in a state of euphoria.

Everest is a great place for a Friday or Saturday night with friends. Padma, a long-time server, pours water out of her brass pitcher with a flourish, and has a talent for remembering and repeating the most complex orders. Pints of Max are 2,500 won, and the packed, lively atmosphere of the place is guaranteed to put even the most Seoul-hardened expat in high spirits.

Getting there: Walk straight out of Dongdaemun Station, exit 3. Turn left at the pharmacy, into an alley. Turn right at the first alley after that. Everest is on the second floor of the building straight ahead. Don't be fooled by the many Indian/Nepali restaurants that have sprung up literally right next to the restaurant; there's only one Everest.

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CURRY QUEST

Three places to get your indo-fix.

By: Josh Foreman

YETI: Hongdae

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Yeti Hongdae

You wouldn't be surprised to find Aladdin lounging on the floor in this basement restaurant, smoking opium with voluptuous, dark-haired women. OK, maybe you would be surprised. The point is, Yeti has a desert-tent, den-of-thieves vibe. It's dimly lit and smells of incense; most of the seating is on the floor, atop patchwork cushions and pillows; silky cloth hangs from the ceiling; hookahs are always within arm's reach, ready for the smoking.

Have a big date coming up? Do not fret about your apartment's harsh overhead lighting. Return the candle you bought at E-Mart. Put away your pan and spatula. The mood has been set for you already, at Yeti. Far better than you could ever hope to do yourself. It's the kind of restaurant that puts you immediately at ease. It's the Indo-trance playing in the background, the brick half-walls that separate different sections of the place, the hanging star lanterns and the brass oil lamps

and the fact that you're lounging on a bed of pillows. Owner Gambhir Man Shreshtha has done a fine job of turning his restaurant into an escape to an older, more exotic East. And the food's good too.

I ordered a chicken tikka masala, naan and a banana lassi. The lassi came out first, tart, creamy and so thick I could barely suck it through a straw. The naan and curry came out shortly after. The naan here is lighter and has more the consistency of pita bread. The curry was tomato-based, with chunks of chicken and onions. Not too heavy, not too thick, the acid in the curry kept it feeling light, good for lunch. The server said it was spicy, but after the Everest vindaloo, the heat was unnoticeable. They have a lunch set for two that comes with salad, tandoori chicken, curry, naan, rice and a lassi or tea and costs 24,000 won. Curries run 9,000 to 10,000 won.

It's quiet and private, the perfect atmosphere for getting to know a date. And afterwards, ascend the stairs to bustling Hongdae. Yeti is in the hippest part of the neighborhood, a short walk from clubs and pubs galore.

Getting there: Walk out of Hongik University Station, exit 9. Take your second left and walk until Hongik University is directly across the street. Take a right, and another right shortly after up a small hill. Yeti is in the basement of the building with Smoothie King.

Directions:

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CURRY QUEST
Three places to get
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By: Josh Foreman

LITTLE INDIA: Itaewon

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Shalla Ganai

Little India Itaewon

Hongdae partiers will recognize Shalla Ganai, the owner of this new North Indian restaurant. He's been making kebabs in front of Club FF there for years. Now he has a brick-and-mortar operation in Itaewon (don't worry, he's still selling kebabs in Hongdae).

Little India has a more modern feel than many of Seoul's Indian restaurants. The décor is understated, with a silver, gray and maroon color scheme. White wicker chandeliers light the place, and Hindi music plays softly in the background.

The Little India servers started me and my two dining companions with complimentary lassis. The yogurt drinks tasted faintly of cardamom. We sipped them and decided on the set for three – a feast that cost 60,000 and ended up being more food than we could finish.

The set came with samosas, tandoori chicken, naan, rice, three different curries, and tea. The samosas came first. They were fairly standard, well made, stuffed with potatoes, peas and peanuts.

A plate of three fat chicken thighs came next. Fire-red, the tandoori chicken turned out to be the highlight of the meal. Oftentimes tandoori chicken is dry, tough, and tastes like it was left in the tandoor for a minute or 10 too long. This chicken was juicy and tender, and the bright red marinade had soaked deep into the meat. We ate politely with knife and fork for a while, but eventually abandoned those instruments and ate the thighs wing-style. Little India's slogan is "finger-licking good," and in this case that was true. We had the orange-stained fingers to prove it.

The curries were fairly standard – one mixed veg, one lamb rogan josh (a classic dish from Ganai's home state of Kashmir), and one butter chicken. We got plenty of it, and plenty of naan to go with it. The naan – plain and garlic – was thin, chewy and delicious. There were several pieces left over after we finished off the curry, something which has never happened before as far as I know.

We finished the meal with milky chai tea. Ganai, the affable owner, circulated through the restaurant chatting with diners. Most of the diners seemed to be locals; kids from the neighborhood were hanging out with their mothers while couples ate biryani and drank tea. Little India is small and relaxed enough to be a regular choice for people who live near Itaewon. Most of the curries on the menu are around 10,000 won. The set for two, which comes with everything described above, is 38,000 won.

Getting there: Walk straight out of Itaewon Station, exit 3. Walk past the Kookmin Bank and turn right at the first big intersection. Walk up the hill, passing the Foreign Food Market. Veer left, and walk toward the mosque. Little India is about 50 meters before the mosque, on the left.

Directions:

Itaewon Station, exit 3. Walk past Kookmin Bank & turn right at the junction. Walk past Foreign Food Market. Little India is about 50 m before the mosque, on the left.

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Perfect Valentine's food

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AH, LOVE IS IN THE AIR – wait, that's the smell of churros!

It's February, and Valentine's Day is fast approaching. I must say, the day is way too sweet for me. For all of you happily in love: couldn't you celebrate said love on one of the other 364 days of the year? It's absolutely impossible to escape the pink and red hearts this time of year, the chocolates, flowers, cards, advertisements. Love is in the air, and everyone knows it.

Come to think of it, seeing a perfect couple together is heart-warming. Yes, something to celebrate. This Valentine's talk has gotten me thinking about one of the best couples I've had the pleasure of knowing. I'm not talking about my parents, or my neighbors, or Brangelina. I'm talking about chocolate and churros.

Having chocolate and churros is a ritual in Spain that can happen at breakfast time or in the afternoon before dinner ("merienda"). This ritual is usually performed in coffee shops, with friends, over deep conversations.

It is, in fact, the perfect Valentine's Day food, whether you're sharing it with a lover or friends. The traditional way to eat churros is with thick, rich chocolate. It should have the consistency of Nutella – imagine dipping a hot churro into that. Mmm... But I actually prefer having mine with coffee. You can try it with mocha to keep the chocolate theme, or have it with any kind of coffee.

The churros couldn't be easier to make. You only need four common ingredients, probably all of which you already have. Now get out that flour and go!

"The traditional way to eat churros is with thick, rich chocolate. It should have the consistency of Nutella – imagine dipping a hot churro into that. Mmm..."



RECIPE Churros

●

INGREDIENTS

Makes 24 churros

- 3 cups of water
- 3 cups of flour (You can vary the amounts, but the proportion of water to flour should be equal.)
- 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- A pinch of salt

PREPARATION

Mix the flour with the salt and the baking powder. Heat the water. When it boils take it off the heat and add the flour all at once. Stir until the dough is detached from the walls of the pan you're using. This needs to be done without adding any heat to the mixture. Let it rest for a couple of minutes until the dough gets a little colder and then fill the pastry bag.

On a dry and clean surface make the churros and let them cool down before you cut them.

Normally they are around 12 cm, but it is totally up to you.

Heat the oil in a pan; remember that they need to be deep-fried. The temperature of the oil can be tested by throwing in a small bit of the dough. If it gets dark very quickly it is too hot. If it doesn't "dance" in the oil, it is too cold. Try to maintain the temperature during the process by not adding too many churros at the same time. As soon as they are golden and crunchy on the outside, take them and put them on a paper towel or newspaper to soak the excess oil. Sparkle sugar on top and eat them hot.

Urbs&Spices
By: Read Urban

ALL HAIL MONTE CRISTO, The savior of sandwiches

Let's not kid ourselves, there is nothing better than a well made sandwich, especially when you live in Seoul. They are a rare occurrence living on the peninsula, but can make a bad day turn out great. It goes without saying that Korea needs to learn a few things about the art of sandwich making; Grape jelly and potato salad should never find themselves together between two slices of bread. Less is often more when making sandwiches, and the moment you begin throwing everything but the kitchen sink at it, you have lost the battle.

I've been indulging myself in hoagies, grinder, BLTs and turkey subs for the better part of a month. But then, I'm in the States visiting family. Obviously, having access to common sandwich ingredients has facilitated my worship of the Earl of Sandwich's most important addition to the history books. And don't get me started on cured meats. Oh how I have missed you. I know you can find these things in Seoul, but they often cost an arm and a leg and are sliced so thin they almost blow away in the wind. I long for a thick slice of cured salami, dotted with peppercorn and marbled with creamy white fat. I have resigned myself to the fact that these things are few and far between in Korea, but that doesn't mean that we must give up. We can satisfy these cravings at home, creating something any restaurant would be proud to serve. I humbly offer a sandwich that will stand strong, even on a freezing February day: the Monte Cristo.

The Monte Cristo is a great sandwich on a cold winter day. The black sheep of the ham and cheese family, a Monte Cristo is dipped in an egg batter and fried until golden brown. I've seen it thrown whole into a frier, or just pan-fried on the stove. Either way, it's a hybrid of french toast, state fair munchies, and the Croque Monsieur (a fancy name for grilled ham and cheese). It seems like a relevant sandwich in this culture of "deep-fried everything," but we can alter the recipe a bit and make it a little less absurd and more approachable.

I prefer mine cooked on the stovetop. I like the soft, almost custard-like texture the bread takes on with a crisp exterior. It is definitely a fork and knife sandwich, something people might scoff at, but as long as it gets to your mouth it doesn't really matter, does it? The trick is finding good ham and a quality swiss cheese (gruyere is a great idea). You can experiment with the fillings, but there is something perfect about the marriage of ham and swiss cheese. It is simple, subtle, and speaks to the idea of less is more. It goes well with hearty soups and makes a great, simple dinner on a cold night. We don't have to suffer anymore. We can take up arms, eat our sandwiches proudly, and lead by example, hopefully watching the rest of the ROK follow in our footsteps.



GK Read more on our website: www.groovekorea.com. Check us out on facebook and twitter.

RECIPE Monte Cristo

●

INGREDIENTS

- 2 slices of thick-cut sandwich bread
- 2 slices of swiss cheese
- 2 slices of ham
- Dijon mustard to taste
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup of milk
- ½ teaspoon of nutmeg
- Salt and pepper

PREPARATION

Heat the butter in a sauté pan under medium-low heat. While it is melting, assemble the sandwich with the mustard, ham and cheese. I like to put the ham in between the two slice of cheese so it melts evenly through the sandwich. To make the batter, whisk the eggs and milk together, adding the nutmeg and season with salt and pepper. When the butter has melted but not browned, dip the sandwich in the egg batter, coating it entirely. Place in the pan and fry until golden brown on one side. Flip, and continue to cook until it's golden brown on the other side and the cheese has melted. Remove from the pan, slice diagonally and enjoy.

"I humbly offer a sandwich that will stand strong, even on a freezing February day: the Monte Cristo."

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IN LIMBO NARITA CITY JAPAN



TRAVELING
JAPAN
Narita
By COLIN ROOHAN

No reason to avoid Narita
Narita City is packed with culture. There is plenty to keep you busy during a long layover.



There are some airports with names synonymous to layover. Before you even look at your scheduled flight times you know you will be stuck for hours in transit. Some of these airports fuel ugly horror stories about hard plastic seating and overpriced bowls of noodles. But not Narita International. It can take up to three hours to get into Tokyo from here, but unbeknownst to many people who pass through, there is a day full of activities just 20 minutes away in Narita City. The city is an easily accessible destination that will leave you with good memories and a belly full of unagi (freshwater eel).

Narita International Airport is an important airport for flights arriving and departing from Asia due to its geographical location. Located in the Chiba prefecture, this airport, which also serves the greater Tokyo area, is a common layover for travelers throughout the year.

After stashing your bag in a rental locker, exchange some (and by some I mean a lot of) cash, then weigh your options. You can head to the escalators en route to the train platforms or

ask a help desk where you might be able to catch the "loop bus." The bus leaves from Narita Airport Terminal 2 seven times daily. If you have the time, opt for the bus as it is significantly cheaper than riding the train. Regardless of what time you arrive at Narita International there are feasible transportation options for your day trip.

A small disclaimer: I'll be the first to admit that Narita City is a little touristy, but in my opinion it sure beats dawdling around in the airport. Get

out, stretch your legs and explore. The main attraction in Narita City is the Naritasan Shinsho-ji Buddhist Temple. When you reach your destination, whether by train or bus, you're going to want to find Omotesando Street, which is a main road in Narita. It is well known, so if you think you're lost do not hesitate to ask. Omotesando is a long flowing boulevard lined with souvenir shops, restaurants and craft boutiques.

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"After making your way down Omotesando you'll see the entrance to the extravagant Naritasan Shinsho-ji Temple, which is more than 1,000 years old."

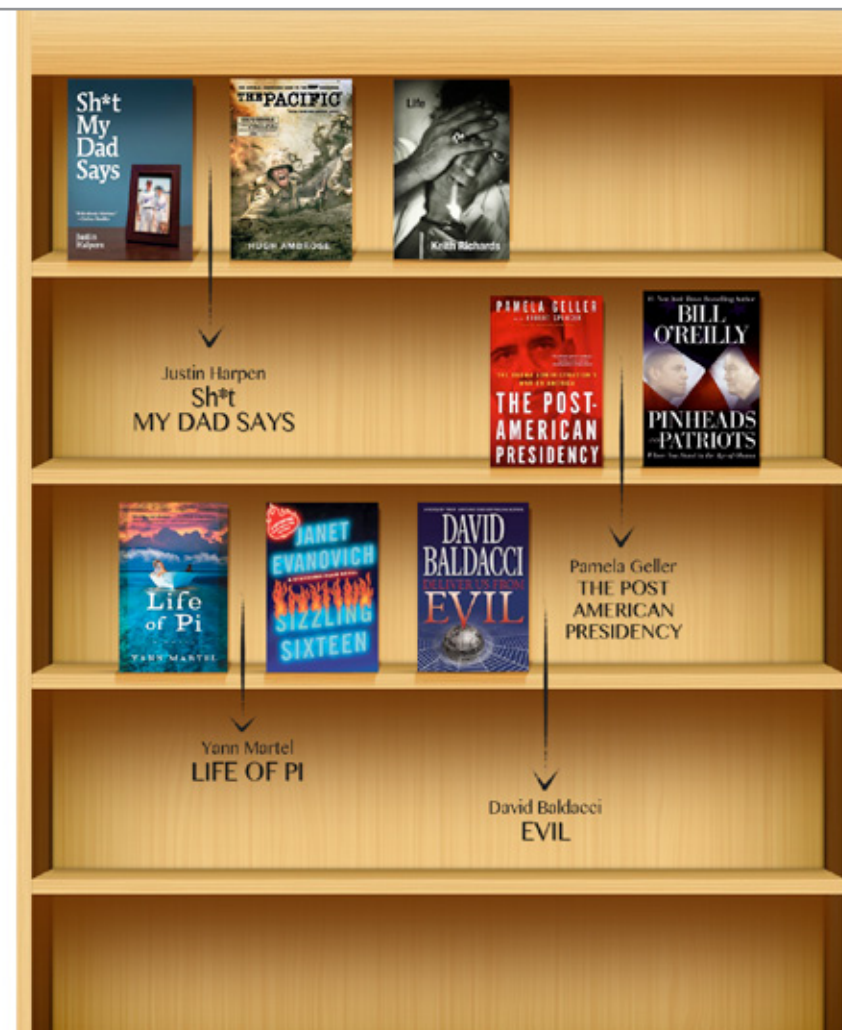
The street is also protected from traffic, which makes perusing all the more enjoyable. One of my favorite highlights of Omotesando Road is the sake brewery which offers a free sample of locally brewed sake, perfect during the humid season when served ice cold.

After making your way down Omotesando you'll see the entrance to the extravagant Naritasan Shinsho-ji Temple, which is more than 1,000 years old. Once inside the compound, find a monk and ask whether there will be any special rituals going on that day; they can be quite fascinating. Once you've had your fill of Buddhist architecture, the enclosed gardens are a pleasant, shady retreat.

The temple grounds are quite large and can easily fill two hours, which may leave you feeling famished. Do not fret. Follow your nose to the sweet, smoky aroma of unagi, a dish comprised of eel fillets marinated in teriyaki sauce. Narita freshwater eel is prized as some of the finest in the world. Other Narita specialties for the culinary inquisitive include rakkasei, peanuts that are said to be especially flavorful

in Narita and are often given to friends and family members as gifts, and a type of fire-baked, soy-flavored rice cracker called senbei.

There it is, a day's worth of fun activities that will leave you wishing you had more time to spend in Japan. Don't let hot, humid weather deter you from making this trip either, because when you get back to Narita International you can rent dayrooms or showers by the hour, which is heaven before a long flight.



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- THE THREE WISE MONKEYS - GUERRILLA MEDIA MOST DANGEROUS EXPATS IN KOREA

"3WM is independent media that is not beholden to advertisers or national agendas. Many pieces are first person and free flowing, where the authors get involved in the story. It's a public forum for stories that get slashed or rejected by the mainstream media along with a diverse array of art, writing and podcasts."

Story by: Matthew Lamers
Photos by: Dylan Goldby



**Guerrilla
MEDIA**
Story: Matthew Lamers
Photos: Dylan Goldby

GUERRILLA MEDIA

GK Read more on our website: groovekorea.com. Check us out on facebook and twitter for free Stuff.

Tens of thousands of man-hours are spent annually churning out content for the English-language media market in Korea. We're talking about thousands of stories a year worth billions of won in daily newspapers, monthly magazines and on radio stations. It's big business.

It's just a shame that very little of what's produced is for the consumption of Korea's growing foreign population. Blame the money. There's more won to be had in chasing Korean readers than there is finding foreign ones.

So it might be a good thing the online magazine The Three Wise Monkeys doesn't sell ad space.

The independent media outlet has earned a pretty big following since its launch on Jan. 28, 2010 – along with their fair share of critics. They've broken some pretty good stories: 3WM was first on the scene when a crooked travel agent was busted for ripping off foreigners. A story on men marrying Western women solely for their visas caused a stir, as did the piece "teaching English inside a Korean boy's prison." All were either followed up in or picked up by daily newspapers.

But the big one is the Andre Fisher case, which The Three Wise Monkeys have been trying to get to the bottom of for months.

After editor-at-large Liam Scott Soper broke the story, editor-in-chief John M. Rodgers, managing editor Jamie Grimwood and lead translator Dae-hyun Ji's team have collectively spent hundreds of hours pouring over thousands of translated documents, communicating with USFK JAG lawyers, interviewing family members, and attending trials. Rodgers admitted to losing sleep over the ordeal. And what looked like an open-and-shut case of prosecutorial injustice when 3WM broke the story is now anyone's guess. Fisher's innocence or guilt might never be proven in or outside a court of law, but what remains clear is that he was not presumed innocent when he was arrested and he was sent to prison on evidence that would be laughable if a man's youth hadn't hung in the balance.

And almost no one would know the name Andre Fisher if not for the exhaustive reporting of 3WM. Fisher was a Private First Class in the U.S. Army when he was convicted on June 10, 2011. The crime: stealing 94,000 won from a taxi driver. The charge: aggravated robbery and damage to public property. The proof: CCTV footage of people wearing hoodies that was

taken from behind, testimony from the robbery victim and inconsistencies in Fisher's statements to police. The sentence: 24 months for the robbery and a 1 million won fine for the property damage. Rodgers outlined the lingering problems: "(The police) didn't do any forensic work; there was a money clip found but never finger printed; the attorney was indifferent and increasingly hostile; very few people ever saw the CCTV footage – and no one knows where it is now – and so much stuff wasn't translated into English."

3WM's investigation brought to light troublesome inconsistencies in the ROK's legal proceedings and apparent failures of lawyers that U.S. servicemen select from a list provided by the USFK.



www.thethreewisemonkeys.com
3WM

THE BROADER PICTURE

So we have a black American soldier accused of stealing a marginal amount of money from a Korean taxi driver. On a peninsula where for many Koreans the evil American soldier is the only American soldier, the Fisher case never really fit into the narrative of the vernacular media.


The Three English daily newspapers – two of which I have worked for – would not touch this story for a couple reasons: They are mostly mirror images of the vernacular press and standing out would ultimately threaten their place in the status quo. These are national newspapers, and let's face it – the trial of a black American service person will never be national news in Korea unless he is accused of raping or murdering a Korean. But it would also make no sense to take a reporter off a national beat and put them on the Fisher case for months on end. They don't have the resources or ability to dig deep into their stories.

"Also, it is not good for business to do so," admitted Soper. "All media at some level has to reckon with itself and wonder if what they are doing is part of the quest of truth and beauty or just pimping for the establishment. I am teaching Dante's Inferno this semester to my high school students and it is amazing how the circles in the inferno would hold a lot of the media types prancing around in Seoul."

Rodgers, referring to Korean media, said it does have good points. "It's not all stale – I get the JoongAng Daily delivered to my front door and sometimes find fresh analytical content there, especially in the op-ed and features section. Nevertheless, it's much the same as I mentioned before; they are beholden to business and brethren, to the national brand. 3WM is not."

There are cases where 3WM stories have been picked up by mainstream English and even Korean-language media. After they started publishing e-mails from customers claiming to have been defrauded by Zenith Travel, 3WM broke the story that the Seochon police suspended the agency's business license on Sept. 26 – effectively shutting it down. In October the agency's head, Kang Wan-koo, was arrested.

Kang's scam wasn't ingenious. He would sell flights to foreign customers and cancel tickets before departure, pocketing the cash. He would not refund the tickets and sometimes did not give any notice at all. No one knows how much money he stole, but at least dozens of people have been scammed, putting the sum in the tens of millions of won. A civil suit has been filed.

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GUERRILLA MEDIA

Story: Matthew Lamers
Photos: Dylan Goldby

"We are a weekly updated blogazine with inside-out reportage, interviews, images, videos and everything else we can frame into it that is provocative, smart, entertaining and takes on life here from the Korean Peninsula."

— Liam Scott Soper, editor-at-large

The Korea Herald and MBC picked up the story, following in The Three Wise Monkeys' tracks. The Herald has done a particularly good job staying on top of it. On Jan. 5, John Power and Robert Lee revealed that "Wystan" Kang was operating Travel Expert under the alias "Joseph Kim," advertising primarily to foreign customers.

3WM then ran two pieces recounting the stories of those scammed with the e-mail Kang sent out, the bogus itinerary documents he issued and the ad he put in daily newspapers, ending with the facebook post of a victim of the scam and the contact information for the Korea Tourism Organization's Tourism Complaint Center (Kim Hyun-joo: tour-com@knto.or.kr, 02-735-0101).

3WM is independent media that is not beholden to advertisers or national agendas. Many pieces are first person and free flowing, according to Rodgers, where the authors get involved in the story. It's a public forum for stories that get slashed or rejected by the mainstream media along with a diverse array of art, writing and podcasts.

"The broader term is New Journalism — think Wolfe, Capote, Talese and, yes, on the fringes, Thompson with the lizards in the shadows and a bottle of Wild Turkey within reach," said Rodgers. "3WM does often subscribe to Thompson's theory that the truth is never told during the nine-to-five hours. There are times when a certain submersion in the subject is necessary which brings you beyond the facts and closer to the truth. In the end, the goal remains to provide our readership with a deeper sense of the story that may entail a certain level of subjectivity brought on by the proximity to the subject."

Said Soper: "We are a weekly updated blogazine with inside-out reportage, interviews, images, videos and everything else we can frame into it that is provocative, smart, entertaining and takes on life here from the Korean Peninsula."

Read more on our website: groovekorea.com. Check us out on facebook and twitter for free junk.



www.thethreewisemonkeys.com

3WM

WHO IS 3WM?

Besides Soper and Rodgers, the other important gears in this machine are the webmaster, Jason Burnett a.k.a Lee Scott and Jamie Grimwood, the managing editor. Burnett is the techie who implements Web design and the functionality of the site in addition to writing stories and contributing artwork. He's been in Korea since 2004.

Grimwood is from London, the U.K., and has a background in media and publicity.

He's been here about two years. He is behind securing the necessary press credentials for 3WM and handles much of the business side of the project, while also contributing articles.

There are also a number of student contributors, "and that's not really something anyone does here. It's a voice that needs to be heard," said Rodgers.

Collectively, Soper and Rodgers have been in Korea for nearly two decades, and have established a collection of sources and connections.

Most of their writers are a mash-up of long-time acquaintances, people with developed skills, students, professional writers and "believers in media that is generated from outside the corporate kiosk," said Soper.

3WM editors interact with those contributors to shape the final draft of the story.

In an interview with Arirang in March, Soper said 3WM aims to cover street level stories that the other English media outlets avoid. Taking a look at their most read stories right now, they seem to be exactly that: The first is about security in the sex industry, the second is a first-person account of a man victimized by years of abuse from his psychotic Korean wife, then you have ATEK: The great white hoax, and the fourth is a submission from the now defunct website textsfromkoreangirls.blogspot.com.

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This is different from what is readily available to consumers of English media in Korea, which is part of the reason 3WM has been successful.

"(Our stories) don't toe the line of appeasement – they deal with controversial, sometimes unsettling and always divisive issues," said Rodgers. "Furthermore, people have some connection to these themes through the archetypal threads that stretch into people's psyches. Sex, psychological abuse or disease, the power and potential of a group gone awry and the complex world of communication—we all somehow know these things as humans have since the beginning of time. They cut deep."

They do cut deep. Sometimes a little too deep.

CONTROVERSY

The April 6 story "A review of the foreigner theater crowd – they can make you (but not me) giggle" rubbed the performers the wrong way. In it, Mizaru went to town on Seoul City Improv and Seoul Players.

An excerpt: "The glaring disappointment here is that anyone who is not completely self-absorbed or utterly self-conscious can see the possibilities for this kind of performance. Like most of the foreigner entertainment over here – musical, spoken word, whatever – if they know that they suck, it would be funny and interesting. Whether its music or comedy if local performers and scenesters took themselves less seriously, there could be a golden halo of Zen wit surrounding everything we did and it would really be amusing. By just breaking the restrictions of time and space of how anyone ends up on a Saturday night in a club in Seoul, Korea is a gas. But instead, as this night shows, the foreigners/performers yoke, part scatology and part neediness just drags it all down."

Harsh, certainly, but Seoul Players performs in the public sphere, so they are just as much a target for a bad review as any other theater group – especially when a fee is charged for a performance, as was the case for this show.

On the other hand, critics say the review missed the point. One reader wrote in the story's comment section: "I think the point for everybody is just to get together and have some camaraderie."

The review is just one example of the controversy 3WM is capable of generating.

The case of PVT Andre Fisher represents a major success for 3WM, but depending on whom you talk to, it also demonstrates one of its biggest missteps. Rodgers admits that the original report in mid-July was "full of holes." Indeed, it was so one-sided that the editors ultimately chose to completely rework the entire thing.

"It was published as a biased story and it was blatantly obvious," he said. "So we took a hammering that was, in my opinion, deserved. Our critics loved it because they could refer to it every time we published new stories to clear up the details – which some six months later are still confounding in areas. We admitted our fault and explained that we were looking into it. The trolls and clowns just kept saying we screwed up, all in comments and forums."

The story generated conflict among the editors, though some still stand by it.

"I don't see any mistakes – other monkeys will differ and that's just part of the process," said editor-at-large Soper. "I found the Andre Fisher story and it struck me with a something is rotten in Denmark force. The two sources I used for the original story were both firmly in the Andre Fisher camp. Problematic perhaps but I look at like if 3WM didn't break a story like that on the fly and instead waited to get everything verified by different power structures and authorities then the story of Andre Fisher's arrest and trial might never have gotten done."

"And let's face it that's what the powers that be want: For real stories of small individuals to go unnoticed and be forgotten. 3WM doesn't jive like that."

Then there was the fiasco with their website being shut down at the end of April because, as they explained it, some people called out in their scathing coverage of ATEK, an organization representing English teachers, were deeply offended.

So when an ex-ATEK official contacted their Web host Bluehost with the complaint, the site was pulled offline. Any offence taken – regardless of merit – was apparently a breach of contract. "If someone disagrees with anything you write, all they have to do is contact Bluehost and the site will be shut down without notice," explained Rodgers.

Less than 24 hours after 3WM changed the story by altering the offended ex-ATEK official's name, Bluehost put the site back online. But in less than 72 hours, 3WM had completely transferred the site to Go Daddy in order to head off future disruptions.

The managing editor, Jamie Grimwood, explained the switch, writing that, "Due to the content of recently filed articles and the fall-out of some good old fashioned rigorous debate, we were thrown a curve-ball in discovering that Bluehost did not, in practice, support the basic laws of a free press. Bluehost suggested that thethreewisemonkeys.com switch to a different, 'more viable' hosting service due to the idea of freedom of speech being 'a different matter.'"

WHAT WON'T 3WM TOUCH?

The short answer is nothing.

Rodgers: "Our minds and the doors to 3WM are open – we'll entertain almost anything. We are, however, cognizant of the powers that be on the peninsula."

Soper: "We won't pander to the banal."

Following is the rest of the interview with editor at large Scott Liam Soper and editor-in-chief John M. Rodgers. The opinions expressed in the story and interview do not necessarily represent those of Groove Korea. To comment, e-mail opinion@groovekorea.com. – Ed.



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**Guerrilla
MEDIA**
Story: Matthew Lamers
Photos: Dylan Goldby

GUERRILLA MEDIA

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Seems like Gonzo journalism. Coincidence, planned or am I just wrong?

Soper: I don't want to sound snide, but I really don't know what that term means anymore. Independent Media is the better umbrella term. I like long first-person, free flowing pieces where the writer/journalist goes at least part-way undercover and writes the experience as full-blown as possible. I am convinced this is where the best American writing is at.

In an interview with Arirang in March, Liam said 3WM aims to cover street level stories that the other English media outlets won't cover. Let's take a quick look at your most read stories right now, and they seem to be exactly that: The first one is about security in the sex industry, the second is a first-person account of a man victimized by years of abuse from his psychotic Korean wife, then you have ATEK: The great white hoax, which we'll get to later, then you have a submission from the now defunct website textsfromkoreangirls.blogspot.com. What is it about these stories that make them so appealing to so many people?

Soper: There are two sides to a soul, and if readers can experience the dark or twilight or quirky side to life they are better for it I believe. Also People get tired of running from the truth. It takes a lot of energy to always pretend that things are what in fact they are not. The ATEK expose is an example of that. Ballon heads living in a foreign country pretending they are something they are not. 3WM is happy to take them down.

There are three English-language newspapers, a number of magazines and two radio stations in Seoul. Why do you think their content is "stale" — as Liam described it in March? What kind of limitations do they face that you are not constrained by?

Soper: The content is stale because the makers of the content are flea-bitten and stale. The content is stale because the producers and consumers of the content would rather read a "story" on Facebook instead of reading a story in the New Yorker (for example). I believe the only limitations 3WM has are quality control ones.

In previous interviews, you've said that the main motivation isn't as much what the mainstream media isn't doing, but what you can do. Can you expand on that?

Soper: My three part (and a fourth to come in some form) piece on the Yoido Full Gospel Church is an example of that. It is all about the work with 3WM. It's all about not being a somebody but doing something that is interesting and revealing. Which again is why most expat creative/media efforts over here are so bad. People will always pretend they have talent or significance that they don't. I don't blame them really — it is a coping mechanism for our "creative" age.

Rodgers: Goethe said, "Of the truly creative no one is ever master; it must be left to go its own way." I think 3WM has been left to go its own way. Fortunately the ship has weathered the storms that have come along that course with the help of our contributors, readers and the persistence of staff.

3WM's success seems to indicate that you could make a bit of money if you opened up to advertising. Any plans to the end?

Rodgers: Our managing editor Jamie Grimwood has laid the groundwork for advertising with a lengthy, bulleted business plan along with the necessary legal requirements. So far Scott and I harbor some skepticism about mixing the page and project with extensive ad content. It remains under consideration.

With advertising dollars, wouldn't 3WM be able to more effectively do what it does? For example, you could put more of your personal resources into your stories, rather outside 3WM making money in other pursuits. You could advertise 3WM in other media or hire people to write, edit or design even more content.

Rodgers: I'd say more "efficiently" is closer to the point. Overall, I'd like to think 3WM is effective in what we're doing. Efficiency is an issue as I've most learned with the PVT Andre Fisher case — translation has taken much time because of the massive amount of Korean documents that were not translated.

Translation is laborious and not something many do of their own volition sans compensation. In addition, as Scott said, to get established writers like Donald Kirk and Andrei Lankov, cash helps.

Soper: Hiring people to create some kind of content would quickly bring me to the riverbanks of a flooding depression.

"Hey Dude I am going to send you my pics of a beach town in Thailand. Can you run them and pay me 50 bucks?"

This is not Paris in the 20's this is TOEFL time in the giant Asian Megapolis. I have friends who both create and consume media and when they have to consider about all of the people who think they can write or be some kind of artist it always becomes a throw your hands up in the air moment. Having said that, there are a handful of established journalists around the that 3WM would like to get regular contributions from.

It's not only what topics 3WM covers, but how they're covered that is part of your identity. Most stories are first person accounts of the issue. Am I right? What does this bring to your story that would not be possible within a more formulaic format of journalism?

Soper: I don't often read traditional journalism. I read Op-Eds and get my news from C-Span, NPR and the like. Everything I read (outside of fiction and poetry) is long form 1st person in the field sort of stuff. Many readers of 3WM complain about this to me and say why don't you just print the facts—we can decide for ourselves. Of course they are complaining in code; what they are really saying is, "I am not smart enough to read real writing, and I do feel CNN.GO offers some great tips for travelling. My response to them is, "No Dude! I don't want to view your pics or read your screen play and you couldn't pay me enough to do so."

Great success has come with challenges and missteps. Can you talk about those?

Soper: The usual publishing project fallout. Contributors with more ego than talent. People with a hipster agenda asking why do you do stories that aren't about my lifestyle? It's all automatic at this point.

Rodgers: Ditto Scott. We had a guy leave the project after we ran a LGBT piece about the poet Gi Hyeong-do done by our good friend at Seoul National University Gabriel Sylvan (in hindsight, it wasn't much of a loss).

We've also had others blown away by the winds of criticism and the usual hipster, thin-skin, Facebook face lifting—these are people who cringe when something gets dicey. Missteps? Let the readers sort that out if they wish.

I'd refer to George Bernard Shaw who said, "You don't hold your own in the world by standing on guard, but by attacking and getting well hammered yourself."

There is an inherent risk that comes with first-person and single-source reporting — something that may have been demonstrated in your early reporting on the Andre Fisher prosecution. Can you talk about that and how you took steps to correct those mistakes?

Rodgers: Scott, as I understand, sticks to the Publilius Syrus adage, "While we stop to think, we often miss opportunity." (Especially when it comes to a story like Fisher's.)

There really wasn't any way to get it out immediately otherwise: 3WM was on summer vacation; Fisher had been convicted; his appeal was within weeks; no Korean media had anything on it; his local Pennsylvania media said the military, the U.S. embassy and consulate were not providing comment while his parents and a veteran's advocate claimed he hadn't been tried fairly.

Our detractors didn't give a damn about that though; I think they thought, "You needed the whole story." But that wasn't possible at that time.

Hell, we don't even have the whole story all these months later and I don't know if we ever will.

Yet 3WM will continue to search for it. That is the way.



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'The nuts' on poker at Walker Hill Casino

By: Daniel Joseph Vorderstrasse

Seeking to provide a relaxing atmosphere and enjoy a leisurely game is Walker Hill Casino's main objective. The Walker Hill Poker Room has been open since 2008.

"As a regular, it's comfortable and like home," said Sy Kim, a marketing coordinator and teacher. "Everyone is professional and friendly at the same time. I first came here because there was nowhere else to play, but I come back because the floor managers and staff are excellent and the game runs a lot smoother and faster."

The Rewards Program illustrates the priority they place on customer satisfaction. Player Reward Points are earned through tournaments and table play, so customers redeem points for future buy-ins, iPods, iPhones and Blackberrys.

In addition, Customer Appreciation Tournaments occur Fridays at 5 p.m., benefiting the most loyal customers. A substantial advantage in the contests is gained as players are compensated with extra chips accumulated from game play two months prior. Around 40 players partake and payouts vary.

Another event benefitting players is Free Roll Sundays. Beginning last December, every Sunday features a 500,000 won free roll. Play begins at 3 p.m. rewarding the remaining five finalists with 100,000 won each.

Sometimes the simplest of gestures can be valued more than a sum of money. Unlike any random poker room in Seoul, Walker Hill offers free taxi rides for players. Present the receipt to the poker room and players will be compensated up to 10,000 won in chips for the cab fare when playing for an hour.

Walker Hill Casino is open seven days a week. From Monday to Friday, play begins at 3 p.m. on three tables of nine players on a normal day. Mondays and Tuesdays are prime for beginners to learn and practice. The action heats up as the week progresses. During the weekends, play is continuous 24 hours a day reaching six tables on Friday and Saturday nights.

Overlooking the Han River in eastern Seoul, Kevin Song, Korea's most successful card-shark ever, has guided the tables for two years running. A professional poker player since 1994, he was called "one of the most consistent tournament players in the world" by CardPlayer.com. "I've been coming here for quite awhile and continue to come here because of Kevin. He's an almanac of information. It's great to be able to talk to him and pick his mind," describes Tony Covello, a professor at Yeosu University.

At the ripe age of 23, Song ventured to America from Seoul with \$100 in his pocket. He sought only prosperity. After mostly laborious work, he ascended within a finance company before one day stepping into the casino with \$1,000 in his pocket. After non-stop weekend play, his skills, and some beginner's luck, returned him \$8,000. A financier during the week, he revisited poker tables on weekends, eventually becoming a full-time professional following the firm's demise.

Participating in his first World Series of Poker (WSOP) event in 1994, he made the final table, finishing in 9th place. Every year he returns to Las Vegas to challenge poker's elite. After fine-tuning his abilities, history was made in 1997 when he captured the "\$2,000 Limit Hold'em" championship bracelet, the first year the tournament exceeded a million dollar prize pool. Adding to 1997's accolades, he triumphed in the Hall-of-Fame No Limit Poker Classic making him the proud holder of two of the three major championships in a calendar year.

Ronald Kluber, an analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency and part-time professional poker player, sums up Song's impact on the poker room's atmosphere: "Kevin is great. I would say he's the best owner we have had since it started. He cares about the players, is honest, and just a great guy who is generous to every player and treats everyone with dignity and respect creating a family environment."

Kevin Song
Uses profits to educate on addiction



Big winnings
Song's won in excess of \$3.5 million

Over an illustrious career, he amassed in excess of \$3.5 million in tournament winnings, taking 23 major tournaments, claiming one WSOP bracelet, and is one of the top 100 most successful players in WSOP history with 25 cashes. While accolades in the poker world are excellent, Song states his ultimate goal for the present is "to host an Asian World Series of Poker-type event in Korea."

He's also keenly aware of the negative side of gambling. "So many friends of mine have gone broke with gambling," he said. "I've encountered the gambling life with ups and downs, but I appreciate God for never letting me go broke and blessing me with a good life."

Now, I promised God I will do something to repay him for my life and help the Korean gambling industry."

Korea's government estimates there are 1.5 million poker players because Song's poker strategy book sold 1.5 million copies here.

"Gambling has been illegal for years and has a negative reputation among Korean society since all gambling is conducted underground and the institution treats the public unfairly. I decided to return to my home country not to make money, but to return services and money while educating the Korean government about gambling. I have to live in Korea to fix the gambling problem."

Kevin Song uses profits from poker to educate on gambling awareness and addiction through lectures at colleges and to the government. "I want to help people recover from gambling. Hopefully, one day the Korean government will make poker legal and people will not be cheated. This is what I want to give back to my country," said Song.



"Everyone is professional and friendly at the same time. I first came here because there was nowhere else to play, but I come back because the floor managers and staff are excellent and the game runs a lot smoother and faster." - Sy Kim



DIRECTIONS

Gangbyeon

Stn. Line 2, Exit 1

The shuttle to Walker Hill is located across the street from Techno Mart.

Gwangnaru

Stn. Line 5, Exit 2

The shuttle is located across the street from the exit. Shuttle buses operate every 10 minutes from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Go to www.walkerhillpoker.com for updates on APPT Seoul satellites tournaments and weekly/monthly events.

Weekly/Monthly Events

- Customer Appreciation Free Roll – every Friday – payouts vary with participation.
- 10 Million Guaranteed – last Friday of month – first place about 4 or 5 million.
- 3 Million Free Roll – every other Friday – top 10 get 300,000 each.
- Saturday Cash Buy-ins (50,000 to 220,000) – every Saturday.
- Sunday Free Roll – every Sunday – top 5 100,000 each.

Special EVENTS

- Asia Pacific Poker Tour (APPT) Event – March 7 to 11, 2012 – 3,000,000 buy-in – weekly satellites will take place at Walker Hill Poker Room
- \$10,000 WSOP seat in Las Vegas – spring 2012
- \$6,000 Aussie Poker Tour seat – fall 2012
- Occasional big buy-in tournaments

Date	Time		Buy-in
March 7	2:00 p.m.	420,000 Main Event Mega Satellite (in Casino), 1-in-8 win	₩420,000
March 7	6:00 p.m.	420,000 Main Event Mega Satellite (in Casino), 1-in-8 win	₩420,000
March 8	12:15 p.m.	Event 1: APPT Seoul Main Event - Day 1A	₩3,000,000
March 8	4:00 p.m.	Main Event Mega Satellite, 1-in-8 win	₩420,000
March 8	8:00 p.m.	Main Event Last Chance Mega Satellite, 1-in-5 win	₩650,000
March 9	12:15 p.m.	APPT Seoul Main Event - Day 1B	₩3,000,000
March 9	6:00 p.m.	No Limit Hold'em Teams Event	₩400,000 (per team)
March 10	4:00 p.m.	No Limit Hold'em Bounty	₩300,000
March 10	8:00 p.m.	Pot Limit Omaha	₩1,100,000
March 11	12:30 p.m.	High Rollers Event (2 table max)	₩6,000,000

Yoon's
Oriental Clinic
Review
By: George Kim

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Dr. Yoon Jung-sun



"The rate of response and immune system differs from person to person. Considering this, the more attention given to an individual the better, which is a philosophy of Oriental medicine." — Dr. Yoon Jung-sun

Noksapyeong Stn. Line 6 Exit 2

Walk straight and take a right after Kyung-ri-dan. The clinic is about one block ahead on the left.

Health check: Yoon's Oriental Medical Clinic

After hospitals failed to relieve a patient of his chronic headaches, he walked through the doors of Yoon's Oriental Medical Clinic. And where years of Western medicine had failed him, Oriental medicine quickly took care of his problem. "We cured the patient by paying full attention to all of his symptoms," said co-owner Dr. Yoon Jung-sun.

Yoon said she has seen countless cases like this over the past 13 years at her clinic.

Whereas Western medicine tends to focus more on symptoms and the disease itself, Oriental medicine pays full attention to the whole body of the patient, according to the 41-year-old doctor. She did say that surgery is necessary to treat some diseases, but many illnesses can be healed naturally with alternative medicine. "The rate of response and immune system differs from person to person. Considering this, the more attention given to an individual the better, which is a philosophy of Oriental medicine."

The clientele for Yoon's Oriental Medical Clinic ranges from Korean celebrity comedians Lee Kyung-kyu, Lee Tae-sik, Cho Won-suk and actress Choi

Hwa-jung to expats and a trickle of tourists.

They go to the clinic seeking treatment for a diverse range of problems, but what is interesting is that Yoon said their recovery period and medical response for foreigners is relatively fast compared with her Korean patients.

For Yoon, Oriental medicine runs in the family. She works with her brother Yong-sik and their father is an Oriental medicine doctor, too, so they grew up in the environment in Chungcheongnamdo.

The Yoon's brother says Oriental medicine isn't something that ought to replace Western medicine, but that the two should be complementary. Western and Oriental medicine both have their limits, they said. Together with Western medical science, Oriental medicine should supplement the study of both physical and mental illnesses.

The older Yoon studied at the Oriental Medicine Department of Daejeon University for six years, earning a medical degree. She also has a Ph.D in acupuncture.

"As my major in the graduate school was acupuncture, my interest is mainly

in acupuncture and internal disease," said Jung-sun. "On the other hand, my younger brother, who is also a doctor at our clinic, focuses on structural medical science and musculoskeletal disorders, due to our father's influence."

The most popular treatments at the clinic are acupuncture for various musculoskeletal disorders (lumbar pain, sciatic neuralgia, tennis elbow, knee arthralgia, shoulder pain) and internal diseases (gastrointestinal disorders, respiratory disease, nasal inflammation); medicine treatment for chronic internal disease; skin ailments (freckles, moles, acne); Oriental medicine diet program; and Oriental physical therapy.

While the Yoons don't speak English fluently, there are English-speaking staffs at the clinic to assist foreign patients, so a language barrier is not a problem.



For more information:

see their website: www.dryoonskin.com or call (02) 790-9577.

"The more attention given to an individual the better, which is a philosophy of Oriental medicine." — Dr. Yoon Jung-sun



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This month's KONGLISH OF THE MONTH winner

Find something hilarious? Send it in and win a food or entertainment voucher worth 50,000 won. E-mail your entry along with your name and mailing address to submissions@groovekorea.com — Ed.

Photo by:
Ko Seunghee

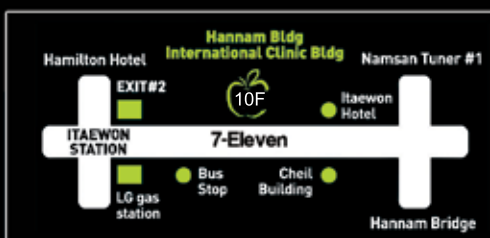


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PICTURES OF THE YEAR (2011)

Go to the Seoul Photo Club on flickr to compete in the Photo Challenge

Photo by: Brad Church

For me the Buddha's birthday celebrations are all about the children. This is one of about a half a dozen little girls who were serving green tea to visitors to Geonbong Temple in Gangwon Province.

Photo By: Christian A. Cuisson

Simplicity is the key to minimalism in photography. Take your time in chewing your subject, the background and what depth of field you should use. Then wait.

Photo By: John Paul Deacon
In hundreds of years to come, will people look back with admiration for our current cities and architecture?

Photo By: Catherine Hellsten
Seoul is full of motion. Buses lumber through the streets. Cars and taxis push through traffic and motorbikes compete with pedestrians for space on Seoul's sidewalks. The dizzyest of these places is the subway in particular Gangnam Station in Seoul.

TIP OF THE MONTH:

FITB (fill-in-the-blank) clues are generally the simplest clues to solve. They are easily spotted in the clue list so go through these first. Getting one or two of these clues can help to get the ball rolling and will give you a good starting point on which to solve the puzzle.

1		2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15							16			
17					18							19			
20									21		22				
				23			24	25		26					
27	28	29				30		31		32			33	34	
35				36	37				38		39				
40				41		42					43				
44					45					46		47			
48				49		50				51	52				
				53		54		55		56					
57	58					59			60			61	62	63	
64					65		66	67							
68					69						70				
71					72						73				

ACROSS

1. French clergyman

2. Santa's revenge

3. Matador's victim

4. Treeless plain

5. Bottomless gulf

6. Yakker's gift

7. Suggested object for a tit for tat

8. Life preserver?

9. Teach one-on-one

10. Deli offering

11. Made it out of a packed aisle

12. Some bottom lines, in math

13. Good night for soldiers

18. Data for detectives
22. 2001 title role for Sean Penn

24. Hand on deck

25. Jealous

27. Vocal cords, in slang

28. In the least bit

29. Eked out the victory

31. Take care of, as a nurse

33. Plow innovator John

34. Bothered incessantly

37. High roller's roll

38. Place for a shepherd

41. Saved, as a shipwreck

46. Historical info

49. Yang's counterpart
52. First name among Italian leading ladies

54. Bangladesh's capital

56. Waste allowances

57. Shakespeare, for one

58. Chills and fever

59. Hunk of marble

61. Entitle oneself to

62. River to the Severn

63. Melodious Horne

66. Keats specialty

67. Place for an acting president?

DOWN

1. Circus lineup

5. Classic TV's 86, for one

10. Subtle "Over here!"

14. Start up a computer

15. Louisiana waterway

16. Lung opening?

17. Narrowly avoid overtime, in a way

19. Drainage pump

20. Splits to unite

21. Party leader?

23. Old hat

26. Chophouse request

27. Handled clumsily

30. Exterminator's target, perhaps

32. Nissan rival

35. Japanese Prime Minister Hirobumi

6. Office chair feature

39. Track encounter

40. Searches for gold, in a way

42. Flared dress

43. --- fixe (obsession)

44. Isle of exile

45. Thingamajig

47. Sports-car protector

48. With cunning

50. Dead-end job

51. So far

53. Gung-ho

55. --- voce (softly)

57. Loco

60. Undo, as an amendment

64. Bug-eyed

65. Narrow escape

68. Bit of chicanery

69. West Pointer

70. Vitamin pill addition

71. Monopoly card

72. Helps in the worst way

73. Tolstoy's "--- Karenina"



3		8	6		9			
1						4	6	
	2		8		5		7	9
		4				6		
			3					5
6	1		9	5				
				9		5		2
	8		7		1			
	4				8			

HOW TO PLAY?

Sudoku requires no calculation or arithmetic skills. It is essentially a game of placing numbers in squares, using very simple rules of logic and deduction. It can be played by children and adults and the rules are simple to learn.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Every Sudoku puzzle will have cells that have only one possible candidate. If there aren't any other candidates showing, Sudoku players call this a naked single. Every naked single allows us to safely eliminate that number from all other cells in the row, column, and region that the naked single lies in. The logic is simple. If there is one cell that contains a single candidate, then that candidate is the solution for that cell.



Aries

Overwork and the resulting stress and nerve strain might result in fevers or headaches today, Aries. Therefore, it might be a good idea to start out the day pacing yourself and concentrating on whatever tasks are the most pressing. Don't worry if you have to leave some for later. There is a chance that others around you might get into some rather heated arguments.



Taurus

If you're involved in a class or if you find yourself in any kind of group activity or social situation, be prepared for quarrels to break out among the people there. You could find this extremely useless and counterproductive, and you might be tempted to try to break in and put a stop to it. It's best to stay out of it, Taurus. Get rid of your frustration by walking home!



Gemini

Frustration and upset with others in your circle could tempt you to go out and get rid of that energy by spending a lot of money. You might overindulge in food or drink, or you could give in to impulse buying. Treat yourself a little, Gemini, but don't go overboard. You don't want to give yourself an upset stomach, and you won't want to take unwanted items back to the store.



Cancer

An increased level of irritability and frustration could tempt you to take it out on friends, children, or your significant other. You're probably feeling especially energetic, with little if any outlet for that energy, Cancer. On days like this you might want to consider jogging, going to the gym, or taking an aerobics class.



Leo

A conflict between career obligations and home responsibilities could present itself today, Leo. You're likely to feel totally powerless in the situation, so it could cause you to feel irritable and be more snappish than usual. Try to think clearly and find a solution for your conundrum, then act on it. Avoid the temptation to quarrel with others. In the evening, go out dancing!



Virgo

Long-distance phone calls from people living in distant states could bring some rather disconcerting news your way. This might arouse some anger within you, and you might be tempted to take it out on the caller. Don't do this! The person is probably only the messenger. Some short trips in your neighborhood could find you confronted with impossible traffic.



Libra

Nightmares that come your way today are likely to cause you to wake up feeling extremely angry for no tangible reason. You might want to take a close look at your dreams and try to analyze them so that you'll learn the source of your ire and how best to expunge it. Disconcerting news about money is likely to prove groundless.



Scorpio

A partner, either your life partner or a colleague, is likely to be in an irritable mood today, which you could find a bit upsetting. Bear in mind that this person's mood probably has little if anything to do with you, Scorpio, or anything you've said or done. Just stay out of their way until they're over it!



Sagittarius

Too many unfinished tasks or chores today might have you feeling pressured to get them done, creating unnecessary stress and strain. Pace yourself and don't panic if you have to let some of them go for today. You're probably feeling more sensitive than usual, Sagittarius, so you might also pick up some moods from the people around you.



Capricorn

Stress-related health complaints could force reevaluation of your current situation, particularly your job. You may take a good look at your skills and consider how they can be put to use in other fields. Communication from distant places may bring new opportunities to pursue old ambitions. Change is in the wind. It isn't wise to try to stop it.



Aquarius

Emotional levels run high among members of a group you're affiliated with as disagreements turn into quarrels. Stay out of this, Capricorn, it won't do you any good. Write down your impressions and share them with the others at another time when tempers have cooled down. You might find yourself wanting to make one final push toward attaining a personal goal.



Pisces

Frustrated energy resulting from inability to put your plans into action could have your nerves on edge today, Pisces, and you might be tempted to get into petty quarrels with those around you. Try to find alternative outlets for your energy so as to avoid this trap. There is also the danger that you might take impulsive actions without giving it any thought.



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